



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>



HARVARD UNIVERSITY



**LIBRARY OF THE
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION**



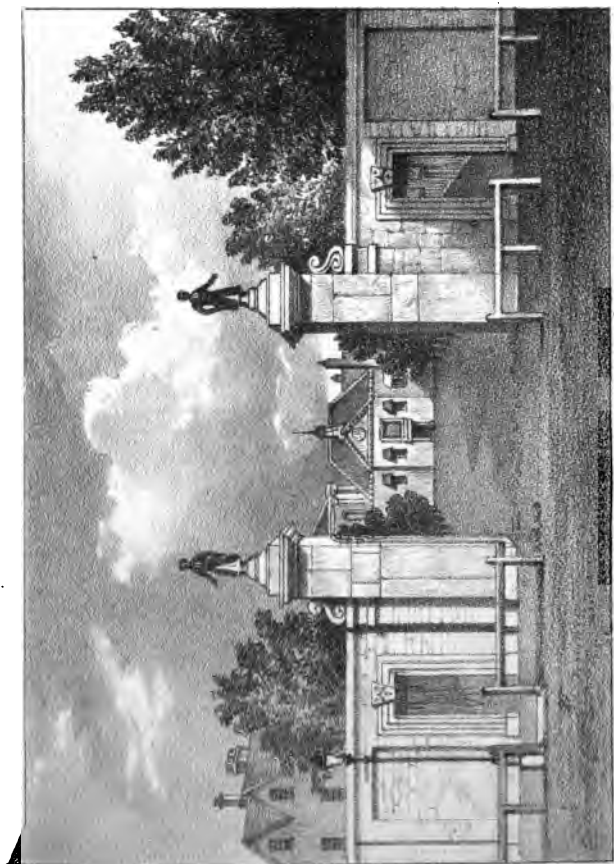
3 2044 096 983 226



A

BLUE-COAT BOY'S RECOLLECTIONS

Of Hertford School.



Straker, Lith. 118, Beth Shalom, St. London.

A BLUE-COAT BOY'S
RECOLLECTIONS
OF
HERTFORD SCHOOL.

With an Appendix,
CONTAINING
THE RULES, REGULATIONS, &c.

BY
GEORGE WICKHAM.

"Heaven prosper it! may peace, and love,
And hope, and consolation fall,
Through its meek influence from above,
And penetrate the hearts of all;
All who around the hallowed fane
Shall sojourn in this fair domain."

WORDSWORTH.

LONDON:
HARVEY AND DARTON, GRACECHURCH-STREET.
1841.

Special
Collections

LF795

.H5W6

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

MONROE C. GUTMAN LIBRARY

1918

LONDON:

JOSEPH RICKERBY, PRINTER,
SHERBOURN LANE.

TO THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL

WILLIAM THOMPSON, ESQ. M.P.,

ALDERMAN, PRESIDENT;

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL

RICHARD HOTHAM PIGEON, ESQ.,

TREASURER;

AND THE REST OF THE

GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL,

This little Volume is Enscribed,

By their obedient and humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.



P R E F A C E.

THE Parent Establishment of Christ's Hospital, London, having been fully and elaborately described in a recent work of great research and merit, by the Rev. W. Trollope, M. A., formerly one of its Classical Masters, as well as in a less ambitious publication, by Mr. J. I. Wilson, I have been induced, from no competitor appearing in the field, to attempt, in the following pages, a description of its offspring, the branch Institution at Hertford; connecting with it incidents as they really happened, and placing before the reader the real life of a BLUE-COAT BOY.

The best reason I can give for the publication of these Recollections, is the want I myself experienced of a work of this description. Their origin is as follows. A gentleman of my acquaintance who had a son entering the school, requested of me some information respecting the

habits and customs of the boys. I committed to paper such as I possessed, and at his suggestion have enlarged and extended them to their present size.

To those kind friends who have been pleased to bestow smiles of approbation and encouragement on these, my first and feeble efforts, I return my grateful acknowledgments. I must not, however, deceive myself, and imagine that similar kindness awaits me at the hands of the critic, for my bantling is, as it were, leaving home and entering the world, to become the sport of the wind that blows, whether unfavourable or propitious. As a slight ground of extenuation, I would impress on the reader the tender age at which these Recollections became engraven on my memory ; and if I have erred in giving them to the world, I solicit pardon for my presumption.

A

BLUE-COAT BOY'S RECOLLECTIONS.

CHAPTER I.

" Childhood, to thee I turn, from life's alarms,
Serenest season of perpetual charms,—
Turn with delight, and bid the passions cease,
And joy to think with thee I tasted peace."

HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

SAD and gloomy were the feelings with which I received intimation that a presentation to Christ's Hospital had been kindly offered, and as thankfully received, by my widowed mother, who had been deprived by death of my father some four or five years before, leaving a young family totally unprovided for, and whose efforts were now directed to shield her little flock from poverty, and bring them up, useful and honest members of society. A pro-

B

mise to this effect having been made to my mother some time previous, I was sent, at the age of six years and a half, to a preparatory school in my native town, to be weaned from the childish indulgences of home, and where kind attention blended with scholastic discipline, should fit me for a more lasting separation from that parent, to whom my young affections clung with all the fervency with which love can invest the mind at so youthful a period. I well remember the morning that was to summon me for the last time from that bed, where in peace and security I had so often laid down to slumber; I arose feverish and languid from the excitement of imagined scenes of change and grandeur, which had flitted through my broken dreams, destroying the serenity of my usual rest. I hastened to dress, and put on my best clothes which my mother had kindly laid out for me, and in about half an hour was arrayed from top to toe in my Sunday suit, my pockets containing proofs of the kindness of my friends in some ten

or twelve shillings, the produce of my farewell visits.

Breakfast past, for which I had little relish, I was soon seated inside the coach, accompanied by my mother, whose presence alone could have allayed the poignancy of my feelings, at leaving "Home, sweet home." My spirits however, in a little time gradually recovered their buoyancy, and the tramp of the horses, uniting with the sound of the bugle, smote pleasingly on my ear, and a feeling of my own importance crept over me; luckily we had the inside of the coach to ourselves, for I became in the due course of time very loquacious, certain to have tired any other than a fond mother, with my numerous questions, all of which were answered with seeming delight at my youthful inquisitiveness. Then it was that gilded dreams of future wealth and importance took possession of my thoughts, and I beheld the streets of London paved with gold. I had read of wondrous characters springing

from poverty to the office of chief magistrate of the queen of cities, which they had entered, friendless and in need ; these thoughts fired my imagination, and at a distance of near twenty miles from London, I could fancy in the passing breeze, the well known sound of Bow bells, chiming merrily the nursery strain, "Turn again Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London."

On our arrival in the great metropolis, the Belle Sauvage on Ludgate-hill became our head-quarters, and at an early hour fatigued with the journey, and the novelties I had witnessed, I soon sank into the refreshing slumber of which youth and innocence so largely partake.

The sun not deigning to peep through my window, as was the custom in the country, telling me the course of time and summoning me from my pillow, it was deemed prudent to call me, lest I should mistake the meridian of a day in London, for the gloomy presage of a sullen morn ;

but I quickly joined the breakfast-table, and, my appetite appeased, immediately prepared for my first visit and introduction to the ancient foundation of Christ's Hospital. The iron-tongued clock of St. Paul's Cathedral struck eleven as I entered the cloisters. Imagine my surprise at first finding myself within those gloomy portals, which lead to the resting-places of so many benefactors to this excellent charity, memorials of whose beneficence are placed against the sides of the walls. One of these from its simplicity particularly attracted my attention. It was without a name, and bore this brief though powerful inscription : " Here lies a benefactor ; let no one move his bones." As I passed over the receptacle of the dead, all my youthful fancies died within me, and the quiet sanctity of the place (not a boy was to be seen, for it was during school-hours) caused me to view my future home in the light of a prison-house. I crept close to my mother ; but an assuring smile told me how groundless were my

fears, and that her kindness would never allow me to be immured within these walls a prisoner.

From the cloisters a paved court to the right led to the counting-house, where the ceremonies in use at the admission of new boys were performed. The marriage certificate of my parents, and the registry of my baptism being presented, I was summoned to go through the ordeal of an examination from the apothecary, and for this purpose was ushered into the committee-room, an apartment used by the Governors appointed to superintend the finances, &c. It is an elegant room adorned with portraits, by eminent masters, of the leading benefactors to the institution, and boasts of a splendid head of the youthful Edward, by the celebrated Holbein. Here also the festivities are conducted, the public days of the scholars being generally terminated by a sumptuous entertainment among the Governors.

The idea of being stripped before some twenty

boys proved no slight trial to my delicacy. Accustomed as I was to the gentle ablutions of a kind domestic, I viewed the present proceedings as an outrage on decency and decorum; but the kind look of Mr. Field, who then held the office of medical attendant, quickly dispersed my fears, and he jocosely offered a shilling to the first boy who, being stripped, should present himself for examination. I soon caught the ardour of my companions, and in a few moments had entered into the struggle in real earnest, pulling off divers buttons from my clothes, in my hurry to be first. From my bad start, however, I had no chance for that position, and was compelled to forego the pleasure of possessing the promised shilling.

From the counting-house, we were conducted by one of the messengers to the Grammar-school and questioned as to our proficiency in Latin and reading. As we approached near, the buzz of the scholars seemed as though proceeding from a collection of hives, and on entering we

perceived industry personified, every boy being intently engaged with the lessons appointed for the day. We were ushered into the study of the Head-master, the Rev. Dr. Trollope, which was separated from the noise of the school-room by glass doors, that the vigilant eye of the tutor might catch directly any want of attention on the part of his pupils.

He met us with his blindest smiles, and catechised us in a kind and familiar manner. Two boys were permitted to remain in London, as their education had been forwarded, and their knowledge of Latin was equal to that attained by the lower forms in the under schools, I with the remaining number was ordered to Hertford; and this point being settled I returned to my mother, who was anxiously waiting to know the result of my examination.

Nothing now remained to complete my inauguration but exchange of clothing, which took place in a room called the wardrobe, the door of which opened into the cloisters, on the left of the

entrance-gate from Newgate-street. This accomplished, and an intimation given that my presence would be required at two o'clock on the morrow, I turned my steps once more to the hotel where I had slept the previous night, there to ruminate on the change that awaited me, and make the most of my little time in buying such necessaries as a school-boy might require.

In the assumption of the dress of a Blue-coat boy, I became proud of my person, and as I strutted my tiny figure through the streets in my way to the Belle Sauvage, considered myself an object of admiration to every passer by, as I then imagined; but experience has since taught me, that this was a smile of ridicule at my grotesque appearance. Then I was diminutive of my age, my hair curling in luxuriance on my head, my blue coat large enough to admit a partner, and my jealous looking legs wrapt up in yellow stockings.

After the fatigues of the past day, I felt a desire for repose, and in my snug dormitory soon

snored loud and lustily. In the morning, after a little awkwardness in putting on my dress, and adjusting my clerical bands, I sallied forth with my mother to bid the few London friends I had good bye; this accomplished, and all my purchases completed, I soon found myself once more at the counting-house of Christ's Hospital. As the clock struck three, a noisy shout told the straggler through the cloisters, that something was on the move, and if any had been sufficiently curious to turn aside to ascertain the cause, he might have seen a two-horse coach crammed to suffocation with juveniles about to experience the beauties of the road to Hertford,* while three or four anxious mammas occupied the outside, among whom was

* For the accommodation of persons chary of their time, a railroad called the Northern and Eastern, which is intended to extend to Cambridge, will convey them quickly from the station at Shoreditch, through Tottenham, Waltham-cross, &c. to Broxbourne, five miles distant from Hertford. An omnibus meets the passengers there, and conveys them viâ Ware to the wished-for town.

my kind parent. From the windows of the wards overlooking the yard, were seen two or three faces (for it was Thursday afternoon, and a quarter-holiday) looking out, who in the conveyance about to start read their own history for the last few years, and recollected a similar shout attending that very coach when it issued from those folding gates, parting them from home and its endearments.

I must confess I felt a sinking of the heart as the coach rattled over the stones, and sought the wider thoroughfare of Bishopsgate-street, passing Shoreditch Church, through the pleasant neighbourhood of Stamford-hill, until we reached Edmonton, where the joyous sunshine of spring, and the laughing sign of the far-famed John Gilpin, put us in better spirits, and we continued to laugh and joke until we gained the termination of our journey.

Edmonton passed, we next arrived at Waltham-cross, which is considered to be half-way from London to Hertford. Cheshunt and Hod-

desdon were soon left behind ; the latter being the only place of any importance until you reach Hertford, with the exception of Haileybury College about three miles distant from the town.

It was half-past six when we entered Hertford, and gained the massive gates of the branch establishment of Christ's Hospital, the coach disgorging nearly twenty puny individuals, who had been stowed within its by no means capacious inside.

CHAPTER II.

" True charity a plant divinely nurst,
 Fed by the love from which it rose at first,
 Thrives against hope, and in the rudest scene,
 Storms but enliven its unfading green."

COWPER.

HAVING conducted the reader to the entrance-gates of the school at Hertford, it will be necessary, before he is permitted to enter them, to try his patience, by a short digression from the thread of the present narrative, to a brief summary of the rise and progress of the parent institution in London, and the birth of its offspring the branch establishment at Hertford.

The grand national foundation of Christ's Hospital has now flourished for nearly three centuries, and was brought to completion in the year 1552, under the auspices of our Sixth Edward. In the general destruction of religious

houses, during the closing years of the reign of his tyrannical father, Henry VIII., caused by the reckless extravagances of that monarch, as well as the propagation of the reformed religion, the ancient priory of the Grey Friars suffered in common with their brethren ; who were compelled by the royal edict to surrender their establishment into the king's hands. The money raised by this general forfeiture found its way into the royal coffers, while the confiscated lands were given without distinction to the favourites of the court, and such as pandered to the vices of that voluptuous sensualist. But amid the general destruction of church property the little spot of the Grey Friars, from its insignificance, escaped appropriation.

At this period grammar-schools, in which the principles of the Reformation were taught, and which were endowed with a portion of the revenues of ecclesiastical property, sprung up throughout the country. The feeling thus created, soon spread to the metropolis itself,

suggesting the necessity of some further provision for the rising generation: and the priory lately in the possession of the Grey Friars became the chosen spot on which should be erected a beacon which was to reflect the benefit of its light on generations yet unborn. The work thus begun, however, was not brought to maturity during the reign of Henry, but was reserved for the fostering hand of his pious son, under whose countenance and gracious smiles it reared its modest form.

In reference to this circumstance, how applicable is the language of Scripture,* wherein the Lord declares to David, that he should not build him an house, because he was a man of war, and one who had shed blood, but that Solomon his son should build it; in like manner, this monument of a nation's bounty was not permitted in succeeding years to efface the stains which will ever remain

* 2 Sam. vii. 12, 13.

on the pages of English history to record the vices of our Eighth Henry; but was perfected by one whose life proclaimed as the voice of wisdom, "His ways were ways of pleasantness, and all his paths were peace."*

With a disposition formed naturally for the exercise of humanity and charity, the youthful Edward had the good fortune to be surrounded by persons inclined to direct and expand it. In this particular instance, Dr. Ridley, Bishop of London, had the felicity, in a sermon preached at Westminster, of bringing before the king, more forcibly than he had ever heard them before, the imperious demands of poverty upon the attention and consideration of the rich and powerful. These suggestions made a deep impression on the young monarch, who waited with impatience for the moment when he could impart, in retirement, to the worthy prelate, the impulses of his generous mind. This moment at length arrived.

* Prov. iii. 7.

The king closetting himself with Ridley, full of humility, insisted upon the bishop's being seated and covered; and then in the eloquent accents of youth thanked him for his discourse, and appropriated to himself the leading subject of it, entreating for directions how he should commence the great operations of charity and benevolence. "Truly, truly," exclaimed the martyred Ridley, "I could never have thought that excellency to have been in his grace, but that I beheld, and heard it in him."

To dwell upon this grand and affecting scene, exclaims the chronicler,* behold the bishop, lost in surprise; hesitating, fearful of committing some irretrievable error by precipitation. But on recovering his spirits, and regaining the direction of his thoughts, he advised the king to address letters to the corporation of London, announcing his intentions, and soliciting their

* Malcolm's London, p. 351, v. 3.

advice, to which he would cheerfully add his own.

At the termination of the audience, the bishop waited on the then Lord Mayor,* Sir Richard Dobbs, Knight, and communicated to him the wishes and intentions of his sovereign. Sir Richard Dobbs, inspired by the wishes of his prince, lost no time in assembling such persons as were likely, with Ridley, to forward the work of benevolence.

The grant of Henry VIII. was confirmed by Edward, and the Hospital endowed with lands and tenements belonging to the Savoy, to the

* A portrait of Sir Richard Dobbs, Knight, is to be seen in the court-room, beneath which are the following lines:—

“ Christes Hospital erected was, a passinge dede, of pittie,
 What tyme Sir Richard Dobbe, was maior of yrs most famous citie;
 Who carefull was in government, and furthered much the same;
 Also a benefactor good, and joyed to see it frame;
 Whose picture heare his friends hath set, to put each wighte in mind
 To imitate his virtuous deeds, as God hath us assinde.”

amount of six hundred pounds per annum, and other benefactions, among which was a licence to take lands in mortmain to the amount of four thousand marks yearly. These advantages, however, have been lost sight of; nor do the records of the Hospital serve to elucidate the circumstance.

The foundation of Christ's Hospital being coeval with those of Bridewell and St. Thomas, the governors were incorporated by charter, under the title of the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of London, Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Hospitals of Edward VI., King of England. This charter, with the endowments of the king, exercised a beneficial influence over the citizens; scarcely six months had passed away ere the gloomy domicile of the professors of the discarded religion was put in repair, and became the lively asylum of the rising generation under the reformed system of education; three hundred and forty boys being admitted within that

space of time to occupy the apartments of the poor mendicants.

The dress of the boys first admitted was a kind of russet, but this was soon changed for the colour now used ; and altogether it is the most complete specimen of the monastic habit in existence in this country. What is now called the coat was the ancient super-tunic ; and the petticoat, or yellow, (the scholastic term) was the sleeveless or under tunic of the monastery. It is made like the coat, except the opening in front, and was formerly worn throughout the year ; but since breeches, which are a comparatively modern appendage, have been provided, it is now worn during the winter months only. The girdle for the waist was also in use in the monastery ; and the small round cap,—the little article so often objected to by sensitive mammas, who would fain introduce effeminate habits into the establishment ; though it has never been known to injure those who have worn it. It was made a part of the dress

at the foundation of the school.* The building of Christ's Hospital having been thus completed, and its machinery set in motion, the Institution continued to progress and thrive, and we read that, in Camden's time, by the munificence of its benefactors, its prospects had so brightened, that, in proportion as its wealth increased, its charities became more and more extended.

In the year 1655, weekly allowances were made for nursing a large portion of the younger children, in various parts of the city and its vicinity, and at three different periods in that year the number of children amounted to nine hundred, nine hundred and eighty, and one thousand one hundred and twenty, respectively.† In addition to the establishment in London, there were branches for the junior boys at Ware, called the Place House, with accommodation for a master, and one hundred

* Willson's History of Christ's Hospital.

† Trollope's Christ's Hospital.

and forty boys. Hertford also is named as having been a similar establishment.

In the year 1694, Christ's Hospital, which had so long been basking in the sunshine of prosperity, received a check in consequence of the mismanagement of Mr. Treasurer Hawes, by whom its financial affairs were greatly embarrassed. On the 14th of November in that year a meeting was summoned, on the necessity of raising a loan to meet the present exigences, at which it was stated that several benefactions had been misapplied by the treasurer, and that a gift of five hundred pounds in particular, had been applied for other uses than that for which it had been designed. It also appeared that money had been frequently borrowed without the sanction of the Court; and at a court, held on the 10th of December following, it was found necessary to borrow two thousand pounds, for the disbursement of outstanding tradesmen's bills. The debts, however, continued to accumulate till the resignation of Mr.

Hawes, in 1698, when the prospects of the house, under the superintendence of Mr. Pepys, began to assume a more favourable appearance.

In extenuation of these defalcations, the great increase of the establishment was repeatedly urged ; and in truth the number of admissions had greatly exceeded the means of accommodation.

The Place House at Ware, and another nursery, which had been recently erected at Broxbourne, were wholly inadequate to the increasing overflow of the parent institution. With this increase of scholars it became necessary to prepare a reception for the younger members of the community ; the funds of the existent revenue were quite inadequate for this purpose, and thus, out of impending danger, much good was achieved.

The frauds lately practised on the Hospital, and its present inability to rear its head, from the blow it had received, attracted the attention of the good and charitable, who rallied round

the pious foundation of our Sixth Edward, with the zeal of true Christians, and with the healing balm of charity and love, raised its drooping form. Many kind and warm-hearted Governors nobly headed the list of subscriptions; and the appeal was quickly responded to by the friends of the institution; for in a short period funds, amounting to the princely sum of £5,325 17s. 6d., were either received or promised, and this was considered sufficient to complete the laudable undertaking.

The salubrity of the air, and its convenient distance from the metropolis, had pointed out Hertford as affording a favourable site for the intended erection; and accordingly, in 1683, the foundation of the present commodious building was laid in the eastern extremity of the town; though an interval of twelve years elapsed before it was entirely finished. The erection once tenantable, it was not long ere its walls echoed with the shouts of some two hundred boys; there not being, at first, so many inmates

as at present; for the rival branch at Ware was still in existence, and, as the reader will perceive, was not united to that of Hertford until some years afterwards; for we read in Trollope's History of Christ's Hospital, that, in 1775 the last election of a master at Ware took place; and, in 1780, the children were finally removed from thence to Hertford.

The structure at Hertford consists of three sides of a quadrangle.* The boundary wall extends along the south side, with large folding-gates having a wicket on each side. The gates are suspended on stone pillars, which are each surmounted with a leaden figure of a boy in his blue costume.

Concerning these two figures, a strange story is in circulation among the boys, the favourite version of which is as follows :—

The figure placed with his face towards the road to London, looks on the gaol which rears

* See frontispiece.

its gloomy walls in this thoroughfare. The boy whom it represents is reported to have been of vicious and profligate habits, and in a moment of irritation, lifted his hand against his schoolfellow, and deprived him of life. The eyes of his victim are supposed to be resting on the parish church, within whose courts he so dearly loved to dwell, and in the churchyard of which he so gently sleeps.

CHAPTER III.

" Here stay thy foot ; how copious and how clear,
The o'erflowing well of Charity springs here !
Hark ! 'tis the music of a thousand rills,
Some through the groves, some down the sloping hills."

COWPER.

A RETROSPECTIVE glance at the birth and maturity of Christ's Hospital having necessarily detained the reader, the author will in the following pages adhere closely to his title, and will endeavour to exhibit the real life of a Blue-coat Boy.

On alighting from the coach, our first duty was to appear at the Steward's Office, to be distributed among the different wards, of which there were eight ; and as the number of inmates of each fell short by the removal of the boys to London, so were we proportioned.

My mother, had brought from a near relative a letter of introduction to Miss Moore, who then officiated as matron,* which proved of great service, as we were not only kindly received, but a pressing offer was made and thankfully accepted by my mother, to pass the night at her house, within the walls of the establishment. I was placed in what was termed the show ward, that is, the one usually exhibited to strangers as a sample of the remainder.

The number of my ward was 6, presided over by that kind and motherly attendant, Mrs. Smith, who took me, in company with my companions, to survey our new abode. Each ward consisted of three rooms for the use of the boys, the ground-floor being used as a play or day-room, the other two as dormitories. As you entered the day-room to the left was placed the lavatory, consisting of a large reservoir of

* A complete list of the Officers of Christ's Hospital, with the duties of each, will be found in the Appendix.

some length, which contained twenty or thirty pails of water, into which it flowed at the pleasure of the party having its superintendence. Projecting from its side were several brass taps, which by the plentiful use of oil and brickdust, were kept in beautiful order; beneath was a receptacle for the waste water in the shape of a trough, which will convey to the reader an accurate idea of this our washing-place. This being lined with lead, a plug was placed in the centre to discharge the waste water, and great was my delight in after days to fill this capacious basin, and as a duck delights to wet its plumage with the passing shower, so was I equally pleased to immerse my head in the cooling element, and try with a companion, as a preparatory lesson to the art of diving, who could remain the longest beneath its surface. Here night and morning, as regularly as the Persian worships the rising and setting sun, did we on our knees make our ablutions at the shrine of purity. To the left of the lavatory

were arranged the towels in present use, each suspended from a hook, over which was painted in black figures the number, beginning with No. 1 to 50; every boy on his entrance having a number allotted him, which he continued, except in a few casualties, to hold during his stay at Hertford. On the right stood two large wooden tables, white as snow, from which the boys dined whenever the repairing of the hall, or any other cause prevented our assembling there. At the extreme end of the room were several cupboards; one to receive the shoes, another the Bibles and Prayer Books, while a third kept in safe custody the cakes belonging to the scholars, of various degrees of richness, sent by kind and considerate mammas for their absent offspring. As soon as the scholastic duties of the afternoon were terminated, the boys collected around this charmed cupboard, anxious to partake of the luxuries it contained; those who had no honey in the hive soliciting, and perhaps in vain, the

crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. The nurse distributed at a time just so much as would excite, not appease the appetite, and would occasionally give a slice to some favourite companion of the youth to whom it belonged at his request, and which was termed being *asked for*.

The size of the day-room, as well as of the sleeping apartments, was forty feet by fourteen. From this was a flight of stairs exactly opposite the entrance door, about half way up which, to the left, was a very snug little room, called the wardrobe, where the Sunday coats and yellows were deposited. Two boys were appointed on Saturday afternoons to distribute these to the owners, to be ready for the coming Sabbath; again, at the termination of the evening prayers it was their duty to collect them, and once more place them in security. Great was our delight, as we heaped coat upon coat on the head of the bearer, to see him stagger beneath the weight, and then by a further addition causing him to fall

with his unwieldy burden. The caps worn only on state occasions were likewise placed here, and within them, rolled neatly round, our leathern girdles. The initials of each boy were marked with yellow worsted inside his cap, for which once a year, (when new caps were issued,) sixpence was deducted from our weekly allowance; and great indeed was he considered, who could afford to pay an additional sum, and have his name marked at full length.

From the wardrobe a few steps brought us to the dormitory on the first floor: here beds were arranged at equal distances on each side, and afforded sleeping room for about five-and-twenty. In those days the beds were intended for two; but by a recent decision of the committee, each boy has now a bed to himself. The bedsteads were of iron; the bedding consisted of a feather-tick, three blankets, one of which we kept under the tick during summer, these, with the addition of a pair of sheets and a worsted counterpane, formed all the articles of

bedding. At the extremity of the room was a single lantern fixed against the wall ; the boy sleeping nearest which usually read aloud to us at night some choice fairy-tale or romantic story, the more improbable the better. Often, during the recital of these products of imagination, have I crept near my bed-fellow, and as the horrors of some ghost-story increased, aroused him from his seeming listlessness with the question, ' Are you awake ? ' calling him by his name.

The chamber of the nurse was opposite the bed-room door, which, being of lattice-work, gave her an opportunity at any time during the night to see what might be passing within.

The room overhead was similar to the one below, with the exception of the roof, which slanted, and was consequently denominated the garret. The first-floor was viewed by many as superior to the garret ; others gave the garret the preference, as they were out of the way of authority, the domestic who slept in the room

over that of the nurse not possessing in any degree the sway of her mistress.

Through the kind interference of the matron I was domiciled in the best room. The number of my bed was 15; and the beds being double, No. 16 shared mine,—a youth who had been in the school some time, and who was calculated to soften the hardships that would naturally cross a spoiled child. No. 14, the bed preceding mine, was occupied by a new comer, between whom and myself an intimacy soon sprung up.

After inspecting the rooms and partaking of a cup of tea in the nice little parlour of Mrs. Smith, we repaired to the day-room, to join, for the first time, in the appointed evening prayers, to which the bell was now summoning the scholars, in number about four hundred.

A portion of the New Testament having been read by one of the monitors, a Psalm was sung, and then on bended knee were offered up those

beautiful prayers * by the pious Bishop Compton,† exclusively written for the use of this royal foundation, and which in simplicity and fervour are unsurpassed.

Prayers finished, the boys quickly divested themselves of their coats, which they hung on their hooks, and taking off their shoes, which

* See Appendix.

† This excellent man, so remarkable for his piety, and spirited conduct during the reign of our second James, after passing through the minor offices of the church, was elevated to the see of Oxford, and subsequently to that of London. He had been formerly in the Horse-guards, and was disliked by the Papist James, on account of his attachment to the Protestant cause. In a conversation with that monarch he expressed sentiments which incurred his displeasure, and was told by the king that he talked more like a colonel than a bishop. "Your Majesty does me honour," replied the prelate, "in reminding me that I formerly drew my sword in defence of the constitution. I shall certainly do so again if required." —*Jesse's Reign of the Stuarts*. It was this divine who, when Bishop of London, in the glorious Revolution of 1668, fulfilled his threat, and putting himself at the head of a gallant troop, accompanied the Princess Anne in her flight to Nottingham. When Archbishop Sancroft refused to crown William and Mary, Bishop Compton performed that ceremony. He died in the year 1713.—*Maunder's Biographical Treasury*.

they carried in their hands, passed in rotation before the nurse, who was seated on a form in the centre of the room, and each wishing her good night, retired to rest. The smaller boys generally received a kiss, which sent them smiling to bed, increasing, if possible, the buoyancy and elasticity of their spirits. This custom did not, I think, prevail throughout the hospital; however, it was always observed in No. 6 ward, and was a pleasing evidence of the affection subsisting between Mrs. Smith and her young charges.

At a quarter to ten each night a bell summons to bed the monitors and those of the senior boys, who are allowed the privilege of remaining up while their younger brethren are, or should be, sound asleep; and shortly afterwards the nurse goes round to see that all is safe and quiet. This bell is called the monitors' bell, and is no doubt a remnant of the ancient curfew: for no fire or candle is allowed in any of the wards after it has rung. Several nights

elapsed ere I caught its sound, and when at length I did so, I thought it time to rise, and half awake began to dress; but I was soon made aware of my mistake by the loud laughter of the boys, who enjoyed the joke.

CHAPTER IV.

“ Oh! joyous creatures, that will sink to rest
 Lightly, when those pure orisons are done,
 As birds with slumber's honey-dew oppressed,
 'Midst the dim-folded leaves, at set of sun.”

HEMANS.

I SLEPT, for a wonder, on this my first night long and soundly, so soundly indeed that my bed-fellow had no little trouble to arouse me in the morning, as the sound of the bell bade us leave our beds. I immediately hastened to dress, and afterwards assisted in the making of my bed, doubtless appearing to my companion excessively stupid and awkward. However, the operation was soon finished under his superior management, and I hastened down stairs to wash and prepare for prayers. These were read in the great hall, whither each ward proceeded two by

two, to return thanks for the favours vouchsafed to them during the past night, and supplicate for strength to persevere in the duties and undertakings of the day. This concluded, it was nearly seven o'clock, the time for school, which during the summer months consisted of an hour before breakfast, and was called the "First Hour."

The boys were divided into two parties, the first attending one week, during the mornings at the grammar-school, and in the afternoon at the writing-school; the following week this was reversed. I was excused attending the first day: and seized with eagerness the first leisure moment to behold once more the face of my affectionate mother, and sought the abode of the matron, to report progress. I arrived there soon after seven, and though so early, found my mother up, and anxiously awaiting my arrival. Silently and sadly did the burning tears chase each other down my cheeks, as she gradually unfolded to me her intention of leaving

that very morning at nine o'clock. By the kind indulgence of the matron I was to breakfast with her for the last time; and I need hardly inform the reader, how little I cared for the victuals placed before me, and how qualmish I became as the time flew that we were to spend together. My sobs, from being suppressed, at length became audible; it was in vain the matron promised to take me into the town of Hertford,* and buy me a purse to contain the kind contributions of my friends; all was of no avail, for when the coach drove up to the gates, and my mother, as it started, waved her handkerchief to me, I thought my little heart would burst. Giving vent to my feelings in a flood of tears, I suffered myself to be led away by the matron to her home.

In a little while afterwards I set out to buy the promised purse, and new scenes gradually

* A brief description of the town of Hertford will be found in the Appendix.

effaced the occurrences of the morning from my recollection. Though during the day I forgot the sadness of my forlorn situation, night again brought it to my presence with increased gloom : feverish and restless, I tossed about on my pillow, my heart yearning for home, and for her out of whose presence I had scarcely been ever before. I felt my loneliness, and my tears testified the sincerity of my affection : at length, as the roaring billows gradually become tranquil, as though tired with the magnitude of their exertions, so did I, quite exhausted, fairly cry myself to sleep.

With the coming dawn I awoke more light-hearted, determined to forget my tears, and to go through cheerfully whatever might happen. Prayers over, I played with my new companions for the first hour, and then repaired for the first time to the hall to breakfast.

This building stands on a level with the writing-school ; the entrance being from a recess at

the extremity of the first four wards on the left, as you approach from the entrance gates. It is a massive fabric of white brick, one hundred feet in length, and forty in width, and was erected about the commencement of the present century: the walls are built upon arches, and the floor is supported by a double row of stone columns of the Tuscan order; while the area beneath being paved with flag-stones, affords a convenient shelter for the boys in wet weather. The interior is lofty and very neat in appearance: at the extreme end, is a beautiful portrait of Edward VI., immediately under which stands the steward's table, at whose side, on the left, sits the matron. Facing the portrait of the youthful Edward, is another of Sir James Clitheroe, Knight, twice Lord Mayor of London, clad in his aldermanic robes. Besides these two, the hall does not boast of any other pictorial embellishment. There are eight tables placed here, one for each ward, four at the top, and four at the bottom.

Situated between the two rows of tables to the right, stands the reading-desk, for the use of one of the senior boys, denominated a Hall Reader, of whom there were four, and who wore a silver medal on a Sunday, suspended from the button-hole of their coats by a piece of light blue ribbon, the head of the founder ornamenting one side, and on the reverse, an open Bible, with the inscription "Read, Mark, Learn." Immediately under the desk, stood the boys called beginners, whose duty it was to sing the first line of the appointed Psalm. This was taken in turn by twelve boys selected by the organist.

The nurses being excused from attending the early prayers, now take their stations at the heads of their respective tables, with milk-ladles placed before them, as resplendent, though not so costly, as the Lord Mayor's mace. Three strokes on the table from the steward's hammer, which is of polished wood, and not unlike that used by George Robins, proclaimed at-

tention and silence, ere the grace commenced. The monitors stood out from the body of the commonalty, that their eye might the more easily detect any irregularity on the part of their subjects.

Breakfast consisted of half a pint of milk, and half a small loaf of bread, which each boy broke into his basin. After the milk is served out, and the bread distributed, the steward sits in judgment, and any complaint the nurses or monitors have to make is listened to, and judgment dispensed accordingly. A single stroke of the hammer informs the boys that the time is arrived for the removal of the cloth, and three more, repeated quickly, calls them from their seats, to stand up and return thanks for their humble repast. Facing the steward, at the other end of the hall, stand the culprits convicted of offences, waiting to undergo the various degrees of punishment proportionate to the transgressions they have committed.

Breakfast over, a boy termed chaff-boy, who receives from the steward the key of the drawer containing the magic hammer, on entering the hall, places it on the table for use, and spreads over its surface chaffs, found by different boys. In the peculiar dialect of the school the word chaff means any article of value, such as a toy, a book, a penknife, or the like, which may belong to any of the boys. When a chaff is found, it lies here for a certain period, at the expiration of which, if unclaimed, it becomes the property of the finder. When money is found, on its being carried to the steward, he proclaims by sound of hammer the fact, and the owner, on stating the sum, receives it back, with an intimation to bestow a portion on the finder.

The hall being cleared, the convicts are marched up to the steward's table, to undergo the severity of the law. For trivial offences smacks are awarded ; that is, the receiving on the palm of the hand the strokes of the cane,

which on a cold morning is by no means agreeable. Capital offences are those certain to be visited by an infliction of the rod, with the steward's own hand. In crimes of great moral turpitude, and especially if a boy elopes from the Hospital, and changes or destroys any part of his dress, the steward does not take upon himself the responsibility of apportioning the punishment, but makes a special appeal to the committee; the offending party in the interim being kept in durance vile, until their decision is made known. In such cases, and in other crimes of peculiar enormity, public expulsion is sometimes the penalty. On such melancholy occasions (of which, however, thank God, it never fell to my lot to witness any) the boy is stripped of the Hospital dress, which his conduct has disgraced; his assembled schoolfellows are cautioned by the steward in a suitable address; and after the infliction of his appointed castigation, he is dismissed from the Hospital.

Much of the solemnity which formerly attended this momentous ceremony has fallen into disuse; and it is gratifying to record that very many years have now passed without an expulsion.

CHAPTER V.

“ Ah ! why in age
 Do we revert so fondly to the walks
 Of childhood,—but that there the soul discerns
 The dear memorial footsteps unimpaired
 Of her own native vigour ; thence can hear
 Reverberations ? ”

WORDSWORTH.

THE time intervening between the breakfast and nine o'clock is allowed for diversion, and usually extends to fifteen or twenty minutes, when the bell summons the boys to school, and play gives place to mental exertion. It being Saturday, and a half-holiday, I was not required to commence my studies, but was allowed to pass my time in play with the other new-comers.

There is a small lodge as you enter the gates of Christ's Hospital, known by the name of the Porter's lodge, which was inhabited by

Mr. Allen, the Bumble* of the establishment. It is a low building consisting of one floor only, at the further end of which the cake-shop is situated. Here of a Saturday afternoon, when the *outs*, that is the weekly allowance of pocket-money given to the boys by their parents, became due, the rush was terrific; a certain number only being admitted at a time within the portal, which remained closed until they had completed their purchases. The favourite cakes of the boys when short of cash, and consequently unable to indulge in luxuries, were called Brown Osbornes, in size and shape like a small biscuit, having the maker's name stamped upon them; and which being the cheapest article went of course the furthest. By the recent reports of the charity commissioners, the profits realised at this shop amounted to upwards of eighty pounds per annum, which were equally divided between the beadle,—at whose

* See Oliver Twist.

house the current coin of the realm was exchanged for that issued by the Hospital,—and the porter, who conducted the sale. By the kind interference of the committee in London, this embargo on provisions has been ordered to be discontinued; and the boys now receive the full value of their monies.

I had scarcely been at Hertford a week, but quite long enough to get rid of the cakes, &c. which I brought with me, and was viewing with wistful eyes the purchases of the boys, when I was accosted by one of them, who said that in his hurry he had omitted to buy one pennyworth of pigeon's milk, and asked me if I would be so kind as to execute the commission? As he was apparently heavily laden with all sorts of temptations for one hungry to behold, I joyfully took his penny, on condition of receiving part of his store, and tripping lightly to the door, asked the porter's wife for the pigeon's milk; but great was my astonishment at receiving in lieu of what I demanded, a most unfeminine

box on the ears from this lady, who, throwing open the door at which the purchasers stood, seized me by the girdle, and detained me until her lord came home, when I was marched off in custody to the steward's office, who told me the offence had been so often repeated, that it was high time an example should be made to stop it. Considering, however, the short time I had been in the Hospital, and my seeming ignorance of the magnitude of the crime, he excused me for this once.

In a recess between the porter's lodge, and the steward's house stands the establishment appropriated to the use of the Blue Girls,* whose dress is as antique as that of the boys. The range of buildings in which the girls are domiciled, is parallel with the street, and adjoining the western wall.†

* In the year 1780, the girls were removed from London to Hertford, previous to which they had occupied a large ward in the school in London.

† A curious incident occurred in the year 1695, and as a

Saturday soon passed, and the morning having been spent in play, dinner-time arrived very opportunely, and consisted of pea-soup, with a portion of bread and butter. After our repast we once more returned to our sports, and when supper-time arrived, we had [pretty well disposed of our stock of animal spirits. On a

Blue Girl was a principal in the affair, it may not be inappropriate to introduce it here.

Two wealthy citizens dying, left their estates one to a Blue-coat Boy, and the other to a Blue Girl, respectively. Such was the sensation produced by the unexpected fortune of the youthful legatees, that a match was brought about between them, and they were publicly married at Guildhall Chapel. The bridegroom, dressed in a suit of blue satin, was conducted thither by two of the girls; the bride, in a blue gown and green apron, by two of the boys; and as they passed in procession along Cheapside, headed by several of the Governors, and followed by a train of their schoolfellows, a more joyous spectacle can scarcely be imagined.

After the ceremony, which was performed by the Dean of St. Paul's, the Lord Mayor giving away the bride, the party returned to the Hospital, where the wedding-dinner was prepared in the great hall. Mr. Pepys, in his Diary, relates the occurrence in a letter to Mrs. Steward, and concludes his narrative in these words: "Bow bells are just now ringing, ding dong, whether for this event I cannot presently tell, but it is likely enough, for I have known them to ring upon much foolisher occasions, and lately too."

Saturday afternoon, at three o'clock precisely, the bell summons the singing boys together, and conducted by Mr. Allen or Mr. Gwatkins, they proceed to All Saints church, to rehearse the psalms, appointed to form a part of the religious observances of the morrow. I had not been at Hertford long, ere I thought a walk on a Saturday afternoon no bad thing, and fancied I should like to be a singer: accordingly, a crony of mine kindly offered to take me to be *tried over*, which ceremony was performed by Mr. Bridgeman, the organist, and consisted of singing the first verse of the hundreth psalm, Being too modest to dwell on the effects of my own dulcet strain, it will suffice for the reader to know that I was elected, with instructions, to open my mouth wider in future. It was a great treat for the boys to anticipate a new vocalist leading the psalm; so I was soon desired to essay the performance, but became so dreadfully nervous or rather frightened, (for I knew not the former word in those days) that I

broke down. The psalm was the hundred and forty-seventh, commencing "When we did sit in Babylon." I thought, that, whether Babylon or Jerusalem, I should have been glad to have escaped to either; the steward, however, did not seem willing to give me the opportunity, but commanded me in a loud voice from his table to commence anew; I did so, and in a very shaky style accomplished the task. Frequently, during the singing of the psalm, the steward would leave his table, and walk to the centre of the hall, where the beginners were stationed, and joining his voice with ours make us sing out, beating time with his hands.

Supper (for we had no tea, our meals being but three in number) was invariably taken in our wards on a Saturday night, and after the evening prayers, we prepared for the usual wash, bestowed upon us by the nurse, and her servant; commencing with the senior boys downwards. Often for hours have I sat in the ward waiting my turn, divested of my

coat, and my braces tied round my inexpressibles to prevent any breach of decorum, looking with dismay at the nurse dipping the heads of the boys in the foaming soapsuds, and feeling all the while excessively qualmish, lest, when it came to my turn, I should partake of a mouthful of the uninviting liquid. Our feet on these occasions were clad in the old caps which had become unserviceable (except in this respect) by age, and which gave us as grotesque an appearance as a cat with walnut-shells on her paws, with this mighty difference, that the caps being woollen prevented noise, whereas mischievous boys hope that the noise of the walnut-shells will frighten the unlucky tabby they are tormenting.

At length being summoned I took my station by the side of the tub, like a lamb about to be slaughtered. By eight o'clock I was once more in bed, and in the quiet embrace of sleep forgot the fatigues of the bygone day.

I awoke on the following morning about six

o'clock, and found to my inexpressible delight, that it was Sunday; for on that day, in addition to all holidays, we were allowed to remain in bed until seven. Oh the bliss one experiences on first waking when he finds sufficient time yet remaining to allow of a relapse to his former delicious slumber! Then, half asleep and half awake, an indefinable feeling steals over him, which persuades him against his conviction, that there is still time; but of "the baseless fabric of this vision" the little Blue-coat Boy was often made sensible to his sorrow; for, on the bell ringing, the monitors would often go round the beds, and deal no light blows with their knotted girdles to those who seemed, like the sluggard, to pray for a little more sleep, and a little more slumber. I have often overnight taken some choice volume to bed with me, and placing it under my pillow, made a resolution to read its contents on the morrow; but the night story and that of the morning seldom agreed, and I wasted

the time intended for reading, in the luxury of sleep. The steward, apparently, liking his bed, as well as the boys, sent an order round to the different wards to breakfast in their day-rooms, and when the clock struck eight, the bread-boy from the buttery with his bread, and the pail-boys with the milk duly arrived, prayers commenced, and ere five minutes had elapsed, we had entered on the pleasing work of destruction.

Breakfast finished, we were allowed to perambulate the buildings until half-past ten, when the bell again called us to form into marching order, to proceed to church. Here then was a delightful period of leisure ! Each boy choosing his most intimate acquaintance promenaded that gravelly walk, and unfolded one to the other the projects he had formed for enjoying the approaching vacation. How we would buffet the tyrant of a monitor, who had incurred our resentments by the too strict observance of school discipline, and ere he could complain, be some miles off on the road to our

wished-for homes ! I recollect in after-times catching a Tartar in making these threats, and was taught by experience that " a close tongue maketh a wise head."

Full of bombast, I had poured out the vial of my wrath against one of my monitors, and threatened to thrash him till he 'shivered like blanch-manger. These menaces met his ear, and the very evening on which I had intended to put my threat into execution beheld me a prisoner at the steward's office, who, after a good caning, dismissed me, with an intimation that, if I attempted the offence, my holidays should be spent within the walls of the Hospital.

Half-past ten having duly arrived, we all prepared for church, with our Bibles under our arms. We formed in two divisions, the first four wards on the western side of the buildings, and the four last on the eastern ; the monitors all the while walking by the side of the boys, and, by their constant use of the words, " Quiet, you sir," making more noise than those of whom they had

the charge. The ushers at the writing and grammar-schools also attended, so that we were in no lack of overlookers.

The walk to church on a Sunday being the only chance I had of getting out, (until I became a singing-boy,) from one week's end to another, was anticipated with some degree of pleasure. From the gates we passed along the Fore-street, and our longing eyes often beheld some more fortunate companion seated at the window of the Half Moon Inn,* enjoying himself in the cheerful society of his friends,† having by the kind indulgence of the steward obtained permission to pass the day under their protection.

The Town Hall, situated in the centre of the town, faces the High-street, from which a

* Since changed to the Dimsdale Arms.

† When a boy is permitted to go out for the day with his friends, he receives from the steward a brass ticket, which is tied with small worsted cord, and suspended from the button-hole of his coat.

path leads to the venerable fabric of All Saints.

Who has been a Blue, and will not on reading this bethink him of that delightful avenue of chesnut-trees, under which we remained, until we received orders to pass on to the church, and unobserved by the monitor would slip out from the ranks, and pick up the horse-chesnuds, with which the path was strewed, and with all the daintiness of youthful epicures select what was termed the heart of the nut, and throw the remainder away ?

The first Sunday in each month, we surveyed from this place the procession of the municipal authorities of Hertford, who, preceded by the Green-coat charity Schools, walked in civic pomp from the hall to the church. Passing as we did through the same streets, Sunday after Sunday, it is not to be supposed that we refrained from making our comments, though at some risk, on the passers by. One old man in particular, of the name of Gear,

and who had painted over his door the gracious permit of the excise, "Licensed to sell tea, tobacco, pepper, and snuff," residing in the Fore-street, was our constant theme of ridicule, for this unfortunate person had a peculiar walk, striding like a second Colossus of Rhodes, and taking to himself the whole width of the pavement. Often, since, I have regretted laughing at this old man, as he took from his time-worn tobacco-box—dearer to him than all the luxuries of the East—the delicious pigtail, which he was sufficiently fortunate to obtain at prime cost. In rain or snow, whether fortune frowned or smiled, old Gear passed us on his road to church, and he must indeed be a worthy member of society, who thus constantly took pleasure in seeking and walking in the courts of the house of God. Poor fellow ! twelve years have not passed over him, without leaving some trace of their rapid flight. Should he still exist in the land of the living, I humbly crave pardon for my former youthful ribaldry :

should he, however, have been cut down by the scythe of time, that universal leveller, may he gently slumber, and those lovely chimes which have so often called him to the house of prayer, sound equally pleasing to his children's children !

Another subject of our mirth was a person called Adams, by trade a brazier, consequently designated by us, " Adams the brazier : " and living in the lane leading to the church, we were obliged to pass his door, and let the weather be hot or cold, there stood friend Adams, as though confined throughout the preceding week by the side of his burning furnace, he sought Sunday as a day on which he might dispel the baneful effects of the six preceding ones. He was robust in appearance, and his face, glowing with health, was disfigured by a nose of unfortunate dimensions, which appeared to the observer as porous as sponge.

These are merely samples of the school-boy

habit of bestowing nick-names on eccentric individuals; and though the practice be absurd, it serves for amusement, and if the ridicule is unknown to the party, the harm done is very small.

CHAPTER VI.

“ Attend ! the village bells from yon old tower,
In solemn tones, say—Come ! The voice within,
Which speaks the Spirit’s sweet persuasive sway,
Says—Come ! The crowd of decent villagers,
Wending their quiet way, in neat attire
And staid demeanour, to the temple gates ;
These all say—Come ! ”

ON our arrival at All Saints Church, a large cross edifice with a square tower and spire at its western end, we were not long in taking our seats, and soon afterwards blended our infant voices with the remainder of the congregation, in giving due effect to the Morning Hymn.

The gallery in which we sat was erected by a Governor of the Hospital, in the year 1684, as we gathered from an inscription in the body of the church. Another gallery adjoining that of

the boys was built for the use of the girls on their removal to Hertford. The interior of the church is plain and simple, consisting of a nave, chancel, side-aisles, and three galleries; that on the north side being occupied by the inhabitants, and those to the south and west by the Blue-coat boys and girls. There are several monuments of ancient date; * few of them are deserving of note.

An accident, providentially unattended with any fatal results, took place on the 23rd of July, 1763, in this church: a fire-ball penetrated the roof during the time of divine service, and exploded in the boys' gallery; but with no other damage than terribly alarming the congregation. It was fortunate that it happened before the arrival of the girls at Hertford, or the shock to their nerves might have caused indescribable confusion.

* John Hunger, Esq., master-cook to Queen Catharine, the wife of Henry V., lies buried here.

The Rev. Mr. Lloyd officiated as minister of the church; a man much beloved by his parishioners, and from whose edifying discourses I trust much good has been derived.

The beginners, with whom the reader is by this time thoroughly acquainted, were situated in the front of the gallery, immediately before the organ. There was a great desire among the boys to be able to sing *gruff*, meaning bass, and for this purpose they indulged in a very bad habit, namely, the mastication of cobblers'-wax, in the idea that it would materially assist in the attainment of their object. The ushers and two beadles were stationed in the gallery to watch our movements, and should a sleepy eye indulge for one moment in the drowsiness that had overtaken it, a nod from the authorities would summon its owner to stand up, there to remain until the termination of divine service. In addition to this punishment, the offender on the following morning was reported to the

steward, who, after administering the cane, gave him one of the lessons of the day to get by heart, confining him to his ward until the task was accomplished; it therefore became necessary in very warm weather, when, clad in our heavy blue coats, and almost dissolving with heat, we were lured by the temptation of sleep, to enter into an agreement with our neighbour to give each other a pinch when dropping into the unconsciousness of slumber. One fatal Sunday the prospect of some pleasure, (perhaps double allowance at the coming dinner, for once a month we were thus favoured,) exhilarated me, so that I was more watchful than usual, and my companion, unfortunately, more stupid, constantly nodding like some Chinese mandarin under the influence of opium, or as a person in good humour, granting, by a graceful inclination of the head, every request made to him; when I felt myself called on to act, and inflicted on the sleeping booby the agreed-on pinch. Starting up, to my great horror he roared

out lustily, and with a vacant stare, after rubbing his eyes, recollected where he was. A beck from the steward brought us both on our legs, and on the Monday morning a messenger was dispatched to request our attendance, which resulted in a taste of the rod far less agreeable than our usual breakfast.

On Sunday afternoons we were occasionally addressed by our kind Grammar Master, the Rev. F. W. Franklin, who occupied the pulpit: well do I remember of a winter's afternoon, when the gloom of evening prematurely shut out the light of day, and the chandeliers were lighted up in the body of the church, the devout feelings that would steal over me as he set forth the grand truth of the redemption of mankind by the sufferings and death of our blessed Lord. Who that has heard can ever forget the pathetic language of this worthy man, or pass it by as he would the glorious sunset of declining day, viewing its splendours as a common and looked-for

occurrence. The occasions of which I now speak, were the inferences drawn from that solemn announcement of St. Paul in his first Epistle to the Corinthians;* "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." The Rev. Gentleman, after drawing a beautiful simile of the declining years of man, falling as the withered leaf on the bosom of its mother earth, painted in glowing language the joys that should attend the faithful at the resurrection of the dead; admonishing us, whom he designated as the buds of promise, so to pass through life, that at the last day we might be separated from the tares, and gathered, the proceeds of an abundant harvest, into the garner of everlasting bliss. The style of Mr. Franklin in the pulpit was particularly forcible, even vehement, and never failed to rivet the attention of his hearers.

* 1 Cor. xv. 52.

On leaving church we again formed into order in the avenue of chesnut-trees, and retraced our steps to our asylum.

Passing out from the church, to the left, is the burial-place of our youthful associates, endeared by many a tender recollection, many of whom had been taken from us in the dawn of their existence to inherit the joys of heaven. The green grass decorates their tomb, and though no stone or mark speaks of their departure, yet is their memory fondly cherished by their companions, and will so continue as long as the blood of life circulates in their veins. Around them too rest in peace many of those who have had the superintendence of the children, and who have been summoned away from this their work of love. From the old turret of the church, the friendly chimes floating upon the breeze, cheer, as it were, the gloom of the grave; and the wild flower, as it blooms, conveys a more striking impression of the brevity and uncertainty of human life, than the loftiest pillar of

marble, for it represents man to-day coming forth, endowed with all the vigour of health, while the morrow beholds him blighted as the fragile flower, fallen and prostrate in the dust. Often on a Saturday afternoon have I slipped out of church when I should have been singing, and stealing to the resting-place of my former associates, shed a tear to their memory, involuntarily exclaiming in these lines,

“Here fain would I join them and peacefully rest,
While o’er me the bloom of the wild-flower shall wave,
And the willow’s soft sigh as the zephyr sweeps by,
Shall hallow the spot of my own quiet grave.
While o’er me the breeze as it playfully swells,
Shall waft the sweet chime of my own native bells.”

Our dinner on Sunday consisted of roast mutton or beef, with potatoes, which last article was considered a great luxury by the boys. We had no mugs to drink from, but wooden bowls in the shape of small tubs, with wooden handles. These were called piggins, each ward having four, two for water and two for beer. Im-

mediately after grace, almost before its conclusion, the boy who first turned round and exclaimed, "Pledge the piggin" had the first drink, and he who said, "After you," had it next, and so it went round according to priority.

It is customary after dinner for the poor of Hertford to assemble at the back gate, and there receive, from the hands of the cook, the fragments of the past meal. One Sunday at dinner-time, a monitor in my ward, who had only to wish for anything, and it was supplied by a foolish mother, having become the owner of a musical snuff-box, was so delighted with its novelty that the poor thing (I must not term it dumb animal) was ever on the play. Sunday or week-day it had no peace. Not content with the sweet strains of the organ at church, he must needs, like an inveterate snuff-taker, have another pull at his box, pronouncing, "the better day the better deed." Unfortunately the steward entered the hall just as he wound it up, and he was compelled to put

it in his pocket without turning it off. Knock went the hammer, and the greatest silence prevailed, while the owner of the box being in No. 6 ward, knelt directly before the steward's table. The hall-reader commenced the prayers, and oh! unholy strain! for in the midst was heard, like bells upon the wind, the inappropriate tune of the "Huntsman's Chorus." Eyes and ears were opened and stretched to their utmost extent; no one could discover from whence the sound proceeded, until the culprit, showing evident marks of uneasiness on being desired by the steward to bring forth the offender, betrayed his own secret; and the surprise of the steward on discovering him in the person of the monitor, may be more easily imagined than described. The box was condemned, and from that time forth the merry sound of the "Huntsman's Chorus" never again disturbed the sanctity of prayer.

On Sunday afternoons, after our return from church, it was customary for us to resort to

our wards, and there, formed into classes, read our Bibles, spell, and repeat the Church Catechism. The superintendence of this duty devolved on Mr. Ludlow, the Writing-Master, who was in the habit of paying each ward a visit, to see that all went on properly: this lasted for the space of an hour, after which we again walked in the buildings until supper-time, to which the bell summoned us at six o'clock.

On Sunday evenings, instead of our usual meal of bread and cheese, we were supplied with butter; a small pat to each boy, the making of which costs no little trouble, and occupies the nurse, or her domestic, the greater part of the preceding Saturday afternoon. Half a twopenny loaf is the portion of bread allowed, which, relished by the butter, formed our meal: and the bread being cut into three slices soon disappeared, not being able to withstand the siege of a good appetite. The service on this evening is the same as on other

nights, with the exception of the Evening Hymn, which is always sung.* A particular form of prayer is used on this night in the establishment at London, but it has never formed part of the service at Hertford.

During the summer months we were allowed, after supper, to walk until eight o'clock, when the duties of the day terminated with the usual prayers.

The silence preserved in the Hall at meal-times is such, that you may hear a pin drop, although upwards of four hundred boys are masticating their food: indeed, so particular was the steward on this point, that I have known him seize a boy and publicly inflict on him summary punishment, for perhaps, merely at the time asking for the piggin. I am sure in these cases I may exclaim with the martyred Charles, "The punishment exceeded

* See Appendix.

the offence." Thanks, however, to Mr. Pigeon, the present respected Treasurer, the rod, under his mild government, has become a rare visitor within the walls of Christ's Hospital.

CHAPTER VII.

“ Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
 To teach the young idea how to shoot,
 To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
 To breathe the enlivening spirit, and to fix
 The generous purpose in the glowing breast.”

THOMSON.

To attempt a description of Christ's Hospital, Hertford, and omit honourable mention of the Writing and Grammar Schools, would be like performing Hamlet, with the character of the Prince of Denmark omitted. It shall therefore be my care in the two following chapters to describe these seats of erudition; and in order to render the picture more natural, I shall notice them as they appeared to me on the first morning of my entrance.

The Writing School, from the prominent

position it occupies, first claims our attention. It forms the north and centre of the buildings;* and stands immediately opposite the entrance-gate. It consists of one floor only, and its interior is lofty. Over the school-door is the clock, above which the belfry rears its head. Beneath the Writing School are vaults, as gloomy and dark in appearance as those under the parliament-house during the reign of our first James, when tenanted by Guy Fawkes and other conspirators. The person to whose care these vaults were entrusted went by the name of Tyler, hence called by the scholars Wat Tyler, no doubt from the great similarity he bore to the likenesses handed down to us of that celebrated demagogue. It fell to his lot to sift the cinders, and weigh the potatoes, making himself generally useful. He was a quiet old man, the sun of whose day had set: the

* See Frontispiece.

jeers of the boys, from whom he received a due share of annoyance, would, however, at times exasperate him; and the old man often lay in wait for us, dealing us, when we fell within reach, such blows, that the city mace could scarcely have inflicted when it felled his great namesake in Smithfield.

To return to the subject more immediately before us, we will at once enter the Writing School, the first object in which is the master's desk, elevated by a platform. The first and second classes stood immediately before the desk of Mr. Ludlow, while the third to the sixth stood on an elevation to his left, and the remainder to the right, the danger of falling being guarded against by an iron railing.

The system of education pursued here is Bell's, consisting of as many manœuvres as a regiment of soldiers going through a morning's drill. The first hour was devoted to ciphering, that is, from seven until eight o'clock. After breakfast an hour is passed in writing, and the

remainder of the morning in reading. In winter the programme is different, the first hour being discontinued from a certain period to make room for the introduction of ciphering.

The books chiefly read in the advanced classes consisted of Goldsmith's Histories of Greece, Rome, and England ; Sturm's Reflections, and the Conversations of a Missionary with an Indian ; while the junior classes perused the Selections of Mrs. Trimmer from the Old and New Testaments. Mr. Ludlow, since my departure from Hertford, having published a Class Book,* there is little doubt, that by the permission of the Governors, he has introduced the same into the school. The ninth, or last class, is filled by boys who on their entrance are unable to read : and the alphabet being acquired, is followed up by the *script-cards* of the National School Society.

The rules of arithmetic, commencing with

* Published by Parker, West Strand.

Addition, extend in the first class, to the Rule of Three, or Practice. Writing embraces all grades, from strokes, pot-hooks and hangers, up to the finest exhibition of round-hand.

After standing some little time we were desired by Mr. Ludlow to be seated, who was then engaged in hearing a class, during which time the cane of punishment was frequently heard. At length I was startled by his sonorous voice uttering, in a tone of thunder, those words of terror to every blue, "Go you there! Get me a rod!" pointing at the same time with his finger to a door leading from the school into the back-yard, forming, in consequence of double doors, a small lobby. One boy immediately procured a rod, another hastened with a bunch of keys to lock the outer-door, that no intruder might venture in during the time of flagellation. This lobby was in length and breadth about four feet by three, so that the person flogging was compelled to stand on the edge of the step leading from the school-room, and during each

stripe, or, as they were more elegantly expressed by the boys, cuts, the inclination of the body towards the door caused it to open every time the arm struck, while the shrieks of the sufferer met the ear, far less harmonious, I can assure the reader, than the distant chiming of village bells.

At length the class being dismissed, and the pale faces of the boys, who had been terrified by the fate of their companion, having assumed a less deathly hue, we were summoned before the dread tribunal.

I was placed in the fifth class, consisting of about four-and-twenty boys, over whom were placed a teacher and deputy-teacher, and over them again an inspector, the best reader in the school, and *ex officio* a Hall reader, who perambulated the school, and kept every boy in his proper position. The inspector with the teachers and their deputies wore large brass chains, and at the end appended a badge on which was inscribed the degree of rank held by each ; these,

like the several orders of knighthood, were only worn on particular occasions, and resembled, in size, shape, and costliness, those decorating the several Hackney coachmen and cads of the metropolis under the new Act, or the watermen attendant on them.

The scholars at stated periods are examined by the master as to the progress made in reading, that he may be able to select those best qualified to fill up the deficiencies caused by the removals to London. Having examined each class separately, at his earliest convenience, he calls over the list, exalting the diligent, and degrading the idle.

In the writing department there is more of chance than merit in the situation you fill. The competition takes place once in three months, and is conducted as follows : a sheet of paper is dealt out to each boy, ruled to the hand the scholar writes ; after they are written the usher collects them, and they are placed before the master to be judged of accordingly.

After an interval of two or three days, the names are called over by the usher in order, and then the dreaded period arrives, when the boy, who has sunk like a piece of lead to the bottom, may well fear the consequences. The master then takes the papers, or as they are termed the challenges, arranged in order as the boys sit, and commencing with the first class, calls on each in this manner, "William Brown, up or down? (Answer.) Down two;" to which Mr. Ludlow, perpetrating a rhyme, (though it goes against the grain,) responds, "More shame for you." When a boy like the thermometer at the approach of fine weather gets up considerably, Mr. Ludlow presents him with three dirty pieces of paper, which an indifferent person would immediately throw on the back of the fire, but a Blue-coat Boy knows better; for three such articles are equivalent to a halfpenny, and are called marks.

On a Saturday morning when the rewards

are distributed, which I will presently explain to the reader, Mr. Ludlow calls in his paper-money, giving an equivalent in specie. Those who have fallen in this match of emulation, if a little, receive frowns; if considerably, a taste of the cane; if a great deal, five minutes unpleasant confinement in the before-mentioned lobby.

Saturday, the much looked for day, at length arrived, those placed on the reward list are enabled to tickle their palate with some article of luxury from Mr. Allen's emporium. As soon as morning arrives, and the scholastic duties are resumed, Mr. Ludlow with stentorian lungs summons those claiming rewards to his desk, and from a small wooden bowl deals out the tempting coppers as follows: to the inspector six-pence, to each teacher one penny, a deputy teacher a halfpenny, and a similar sum to the boys holding offices, such as pen-makers, pencil-scrapers, &c. The ushers, during my stay at Hertford, in the Writing school were

Mr. Martyr and Mr. Bowker, the former of whom some few months since filled the office of master at the Rochester Proprietary School, while the latter holds the situation of second master in the establishment in London.

Since the writing of the foregoing chapter, a change of some importance has taken place at Hertford. In consequence of the resignation of the office of steward by Mr. Steele,—a change much to be regretted, from the efficient manner in which that gentleman discharged the duties of his office, and the courtesy exhibited by him on all occasions to those with whom he came in contact,—Mr. Ludlow, on the recommendation of the committee, was elected to fill the vacancy : henceforth, as far as the scholastic duties of the establishment affect that gentleman, we may exclaim with our immortal bard,

“ Othello's occupation 's gone !”

CHAPTER VIII.

“ Syntax to construe with rules out of sum,
Nouns to decline, while the gerunds in dum
Make Latin a bore, which bothers me sore :
Oh ! how I wish that my lesson was o’er.”
COMIC LATIN GRAMMAR.

AT the termination of a morning spent in writing, &c., a brief time before dinner was allowed for recreation, after which, as the clock struck two, I entered for the first time the classical edifice of the Grammar school. I was placed by Mr. Franklin, whom I have before noticed, in the fifth or last form, there to study the Latin accidence, and ascend the first steps of the ladder of learning.

In person, Mr. Franklin was a goodly specimen of the portly churchman ; tall, but propor-

tionably fashioned ; his face beaming with smiles and glowing with the hue of health, while his manners were so kind, that it is no matter of surprise he should have been so great a favourite with his pupils, who flocked round, whenever he left his residence during play-hours, to catch his kind smile or shake him warmly by the hand.

Scarcely any further testimonial of the goodness of Mr. Franklin is necessary ; but a higher authority than mine own has placed on record an eulogium so richly merited that I cannot refrain from quoting it in these pages. The late Charles Lamb, with whom Mr. Franklin was cotemporary during the period of their education in Christ's Hospital, describes him in the delightful *Essays of Elia*, as " the fine frank-hearted Franklin ! "

The grammar school is approached through a portion of the garden belonging to its master. As you enter to the right, facing the private entrance of Mr. Franklin, is situated his desk,

so large in proportion that one would have imagined it formed a state-chair for our eighth Harry ; directly facing is the first form, consisting of three parts of a square, formed of wooden desks, with iron supporters ; and in the centre, at a small isolated desk, sit the inspector and his deputy, whose duty it is to see that the boys are attentive to their lessons, but at the same time not to neglect their own ; for if they make any mistake in the lesson, the next boy immediately takes their place.

There are two classes placed on each side of the school beyond the first, but in every respect similar. On the further side of Mr. Franklin's desk, and parallel to the entrance-door, is one leading out into his garden. The only books in use during the mastership of Mr. Franklin, were, Murray's Abridgment of the English Grammar, the Latin Grammar, and Accidence, with the addition of the Church Gatechism, the Psalms of David, and Crossman's Introduction. These, however, have long since

yielded to books of a higher grade, and the scholars sent from Hertford to London take their places in the upper classes. Under Mr. Franklin was an usher of the name of Lodge, famed for seizing the boys under the chin, and there indenting his nails, causing the sufferers to shriek with pain ; as he was allowed no cane, he substituted his nails as an instrument of punishment. I think it undoubtedly a filthy habit for persons to devour their own finger-nails ; but how much suffering I should have been saved, had Mr. Lodge contracted this habit ! but as the hideous birds of prey owe to their talons the food that sustains them, so did Mr. Lodge derive pleasure from this unmanly system of torture. When not engaged in hearing a class, his sharp penknife was pruning and rendering strong, by constant cutting and attention, his odious finger-ends.

It afforded us much amusement of a holiday, to steal along the shrubbery leading to the school, and while he was engaged in hearing the

unfortunates doomed to extra lessons, endeavour to irritate him by thrusting our heads in at the door, and, calling aloud his Christian name, salute him as follows : " Jeremiah, blow the fire, puff, puff, puff !" and then slamming the door, scamper away as fast as our legs could carry us. One unfortunate day, when my star was not in the ascendant, I had the misfortune to have on a pair of shoes, much too large, and having joined a party in this hazardous fun, I was placed as leader of the rebels, and hastened to beard the lion in his very den, bellying out with voice exalted to the highest pitch the before-mentioned terms of abuse. Having transacted this part of the business much to my own satisfaction, I turned to run, and make good my retreat ; but alas ! wretched me ! I had not moved six paces when my unfortunate shoe parted companionship with my yellow stocking ; I was seized with avidity by the enraged usher, and conveyed in triumph a prisoner of war. Then it was I tasted his mode

of torture in perfection. Elevating my head with his nails firmly fixed in the fleshy part under the chin, he dealt me with his heavy hand such boxes on the ear, as I had never had the felicity of before appreciating, and never shall be ambitious to partake of again. I was then ordered to sit down with the other boys, and digest a good portion of the Latin Syntax, beginning with that fundamental rule, "Verbum personale concordat." This the reader may suppose sufficient punishment for my crime, but on the following morning I was taken before Mr. Franklin, and severely dealt with. Mr. Lodge left Christchurch in the year 1827, and the last time I heard of him, he was graduating at Trinity College, Dublin.

To return to Mr. Franklin, a notice of a few of his peculiarities may not prove unacceptable before closing the chapter. On a scholar incurring his displeasure, he would seize him by the collar, and, dragging him from his class, give him a few boxes on the ear, uttering with

great anger his usual judgment—"As sure, young man, as the sun rises to-morrow morning, I will flog you." Oh! Mr. Franklin, I would fain attribute to your own good nature rather than forgetfulness, the rarity with which you kept your promise, and I sincerely trust you will be no sufferer from the non-execution of your threats. I have frequently known the experiment made, and have indeed often made it myself on being promised a taste of the rod, of asking Mr. Franklin to allow me to retire before I received retribution; and on my return, I resumed my seat as if nothing had happened, while the rod, and my offence, quickly became obliterated from his memory. Mr. Franklin being a man of hasty temper, rarely inflicted immediate castigation, but deferred it until the following day; thus evincing his good sense, and his consciousness of the severity his irritable disposition might lead him into. He never used a cane, the sole administrator of his punishment being the rod.

It was rumoured among the boys, but I cannot vouch for its truth, that in earlier days he had once allowed passion to get the better of him, and in a moment of anger had thrust his cane through the cheek of a boy. On a representation of this circumstance being made to the Governors, he was deprived of it, and hence the rod was the only instrument allowed.

The Grammar master was privileged to take private pupils, who resided with him, and were for the most part studying for the Church. They were young men of eighteen or nineteen years of age, and exercised a kind of petty tyranny over the boys belonging to the establishment. When I think of the names of Melville, Godson, and other pupils, I call to mind their iron rule, and fancy pictures them, as "giants living on the earth in those days."

Mr. Franklin, from being chaplain to the county gaol, came in contact with the notorious Thurtell, who was executed at Hertford in the

commencement of 1824;* to him fell the difficult task of awakening the convict to a full sense of his approaching end, and implanting in his bosom the consciousness of the enormity of his crime. The parting of this unfortunate man with his spiritual adviser is reported to have been of a heart-rending description. On the morning of execution, after tendering his best thanks for the uniform kindness he had received at the hands of the reverend gentleman, 'Thurtell took the gold hunting-watch which he had constantly worn, and gave it, as the final seal of his gratitude, to his attentive monitor. This event is the more fully impressed on my mind, from the fact of the watch having been lost some two or three years afterwards, when hand-bills were posted over the town of Hertford, offering a large reward for its recovery.

Mr. Franklin resigned the mastership at Hertford in 1827, on being presented to the

* Friday, January 9.

living of Albrighton in Shropshire. At the same time he resigned the living of Horley, in Surrey, which is also in the patronage of the Governors, and was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Cotton, son of the wardrobe-keeper of that name in London.

CHAPTER IX,

“ But it was misery stung me in the day
 Death of an infant brother made a prey ;
 Though greater anguish I have since endured,
 Some healed in part, some never to be cured ;
 Yet was there something in that first-born ill,
 So new, so strange, that memory feels it still.”

CRABBE.

If it were not for rain, who would be able to appreciate the sunshine? Rain is necessary to refresh the earth ; and though gloom attends its fall, it proves a source of good, bringing the plant to perfection, and the fruits of the earth to maturity. Health may smile on us for so long a period that we may begin to forget its inestimable blessing ; but when sickness comes we learn our folly, and determine that as soon as we have regained our former strength, we will appreciate its return.

H

Having in the former chapters described the Blue-coat boy in health, receiving kindness from those around him, and passing the spring-tide of life joyously, it becomes my duty to place before the reader the provision made for him when illness afflicts him.

In describing the Infirmary, or building set apart for those boys labouring under indisposition, I desire to record my gratitude for the many benefits I myself experienced, and seize with pleasure the opportunity afforded me of dispelling any fear that may be entertained by parents for the care of their children during these visitations of Providence.

The Infirmary, or as it is more generally called, the Sick-ward, is approached by a thoroughfare leading from the entrance to the hall. It is of yellow brick, has a modern appearance, having been built in the year 1800, at the same time as the hall, and contains every comfort necessary to the invalid, those on the sick-list being placed under the care of a skilful practi-

tioner.* The building within the last few years has been enlarged: on the ground-floor is a surgery and day-room for its unfortunate occupants; the upper stories contain the dormitories and the nurses' apartments, and situated below is the kitchen with other convenient offices. Immediately after breakfast all out-door patients, that is, those who are sufficiently well not to need confinement, suffering from chilblains, cut fingers, or other trivial accidents, resorted hither, and in a room of gloomy appearance, situated underground, were soon made conscious of the presence of its mistress,† who, accosting the boys in a strong Irish accent, commanded them to put their feet on the form, and allow her to dress their wounds. One severe winter, the number of boys troubled with chilblains was so great, that they were obliged to remain in their wards, and be summoned one ward at a

* When the illness of any boy assumes an alarming aspect, an eminent physician is dispatched from town.

† Mrs. Dobson.

time to the Infirmary. When it can be done without disturbing the sick, the daily prayers of the house are offered up, and on Sundays the inmates collect around the tables in the day-room, and the best reader amongst them reads a portion of the Church Service. During its performance, the utmost silence prevails, and the decorum of the boys is highly creditable, no monitor being placed over them, and the nurses' attention being generally required elsewhere.

In the daily journals of June 4th, 1823, appeared the following extraordinary particulars, which may perhaps be not inappropriately introduced here, relating to a boy belonging to the establishment:—

“ Eight months ago, a youth about twelve years of age, named Oldham, went to bed at the usual hour, and in the morning rose totally dumb; he preserved every other faculty, but was obliged to write on a slate for everything he wanted, that he could not explain by signs. Every means of internal remedy, and also elec-

tricity, were resorted to without effect. Galvanism was also attempted, but was so much resisted in its application by the boy's fears, that it could not then be applied. His general health was invariably good. At length, by strong recommendation his fears of galvanism were overcome, and it was applied five different ways. On Friday last, being the evening of the fifth application, and exactly eight months to a day, he retired to bed as usual, and awoke suddenly about eleven o'clock, making so much noise, as to awaken some of his school-fellows. Their astonishment indeed induced so much alarm, that the nurse opened the door, of her adjoining apartment to learn the cause, when many voices exclaimed, 'O Nurse! Oldham can speak again!' The nurse doubting the fact, immediately went to him, and discovered the reality of this extraordinary phenomenon. In the morning the boy had quite recovered his speech, and being asked if he felt any peculiar sensation, merely said that he thought he

was being galvanized, as he felt the tip of his tongue affected, together with a rumbling in his inside. On inquiry, we learn that his speech has continued perfect ever since." *

The severe indisposition of any scholar is considered a public calamity, and many a heart beats to learn from the nurse the bulletin of the day. The mortality during my stay in the Hospital was indeed very small; but I was doomed to experience the intensity of the sting of death, in the loss of an attached schoolfellow, with whom I had constantly associated. I had played with him, had participated in his pleasures, and been witness and partaker of his grief. We went what is called shares, dividing with each other the presents received from home; we entered the school at the same time, and the coach that conveyed his beloved parent from him, also conveyed mine.

At the request of our mothers, we were al-

* Wilson's Christ's Hospital.

lowed to sleep next each other, and the greatest harmony and friendship existed between us. I saw him gradually droop; the games that he had been the first to join were now unheeded; the dread of the Infirmary prevented for a short time the discovery of his indisposition; but this could not last long; his looks revealed the secret which his lips refused to utter; and the nurse, ever kind and attentive, became alarmed at his appearance, and bade him remain from school that he might undergo an examination from the apothecary, Mr. Colbeck.

On his being taken to the sick-ward he was immediately ordered to bed, from which, alas! he never rose again.

Never can I efface from my memory the feelings of distress with which we parted; with a gentle pressure of the hand, he bade me not save for him any share of the little stock that remained of the kind presents received from our parents, (it was a little after Easter,) as it might be some time, perhaps a very long time, ere he

could again join me. Oh ! how I missed him of a night when I sought my pillow, and thought of the very many nights we had lain in quiet converse, ere our eyelids became heavy with impending sleep, and talked to each other of the pleasures and felicities of home.

The day following his admission to the sickward, the nurse forbade any of us to go near, for he had the measles in a very severe form. He grew gradually worse. How my spirits rose when morning came, and Mrs. Smith, my much-loved nurse, knowing the friendship that existed between us, called me to her to tell me she was about to visit my sick companion, and to receive from me my best wishes for his recovery, taking with her little delicacies, which might entice his truant appetite to return. I experienced, however, the usual disappointment on her return : he never rallied, and water on the brain, uniting with his former malady, threatened every moment to sever his spotless soul from the frail and afflicted tenement that held it.

Death alone can extinguish these recollections, for they will ever have a mournful interest in my memory. When the busy day terminated, and the enlivening influence of the sun gave way to the more solemn and imposing appearance of night, we once more sought our ward, and there on our knees solicited strength and support for our afflicted brother at the footstool of the throne of mercy. Prayer, ever acceptable to the Almighty, must have been indeed grateful, when so many youthful hearts, sheltered from the storms of life, untainted by its laxity of morals, and unsullied by the falsehood of deceit, prostrated themselves, and sought for that strength in affliction, which he has promised through his blessed Son shall not be solicited in vain.

At the termination of the customary evening prayers, by direction of the nurse, that beautiful composition of the primitive fathers of our church, from the Communion of the Sick, enti-

tled "A Prayer for a Sick Child," was impressively read by one of the boys. Touchingly pathetic was that portion, wherein the Almighty is supplicated, should it be his pleasure, to prolong his days here on earth, that he might live to his service, and become an instrument of glory, serving him faithfully, and doing good in his generation; or that it would please God to receive him into those heavenly habitations, where the souls of them that sleep in the Lord Jesus enjoy perpetual rest; these sentiments found an echo in the hearts of all present, and the fervent response told that faith actuated the youthful suppliants. The tale usually read in our chambers was discontinued—gloom and sorrow prevailed—day quickly succeeding day brought no relief to the little sufferer: his indisposition becoming more alarming, it was thought advisable to send for his mother, whose arrival lighted up the torch of hope. Constant and affectionate were her attentions as she continued to watch by the bed of her little charge, and

from her hands only would he receive his medicines.

At length exhausted nature resigned the struggle. After picturing to his mother a dream of surpassing bliss, in which angels had conducted him to the realms of glory, overcome by the recital, he sunk back in her arms, and his soul winged its flight to the eternal mansions of the God who gave it.*

* The effect produced on a young mind, for the first time, by death, cannot be more appropriately illustrated, than in the beautiful and simple language of the mother of mankind, at its first appearance in a little bird, which had sunk down lifeless at her feet. This circumstance is touchingly described in Gesner's 'Death of Abel,' a work eminently calculated to improve the minds of the young.

CHAPTER X.

" Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise,—
 We love the play-place of our early days ;
 The scene is touching, and the heart is stone
 That feels not at that sight, and feels at none.
 The little ones unbuttoned, glowing hot,
 Playing our games, and on the very spot ;
 As happy as we once to kneel and draw
 The chalky ring, and knuckle down at taw."


COWPER.

HAVING in the foregoing chapter pictured the tranquil decline of a beloved companion sinking gently into the slumber of death, I leave the chamber of sickness, and once more in the diversions of the school-boy forget for a while the solemnities of the past.

The countenance of the Blue-coat Boy is a faithful index of the cheerfulness of his disposition, and the health he enjoys. His antidotes for disease are the innocent recreations of youth,

invigorating his frame by proper exercise, and thus preserving a due circulation throughout the system. Behold the spacious field in which he delights to frolic, the theatre of his joys and the pastimes which I purpose, in the following pages, to place before the reader.

The field is an enclosure of some extent, consisting of three or four acres of ground, bounded by wooden palings, and sufficiently large for those playing in it not to feel the confinement of its limits ; here,—when the smiling spring appeared, and the face of nature put on her gay robe of green, when the birds warbled from the boughs of the sycamore-trees, and the gay butterfly, as it swept with its tiny wings the scented breeze, excited our cupidity, while with handkerchiefs twisted together, we sought to beat it to the earth,—here we revelled in the sunshine, and, in the beauteous glow of all around, fancied ourselves the happiest of the happy. Who can wonder at the delight with which permission



was received to seek its freshness, and on its green surface bask beneath a summer sun.

During the winter months the field is closed, and opens once more when the days abound with light, and the breath of nature is sweet with the fragrance of its own produce.

It was the custom of the scholars at Christchurch, and, indeed, I believe in all other schools to mar and spoil what might be considered by some people the redeeming beauty of the place. The grass, which from October until April had been suffered to grow, was now doomed to be gathered, and as soon as the field opened for the season, the boys, in parties of four or five, sallied forth to collect all they could gather, and from the proceeds build grass-houses, which were considered the greatest prize they could possess. Groups might be seen scattered in all directions, several kneeling on the grass, and gathering as fast as their hands would permit; one of the party held his coat up and received within it the contributions of the remainder; and hav-

ing laden him with as much as they could collect, they sought some favourite spot, and there founded their miniature mansions. Three rows of sticks placed double, so as to admit the grass between, formed the walls; and one side left entirely open, proved a proper entrance for so princely a fabric; the roof consisted of board and sticks, concealed by the grass which covered the top, and these rude materials completed the building. Should any of my former schoolfellows have emigrated to the extensive country of New Holland, the simple amusement of grass-houses may have taught them a lesson, whereby the erection of their temporary abodes may have been facilitated. Boys estimated each other by the size and magnitude of their houses, as the world estimates man, by the splendour of his equipage, or the length of his purse.

Coaches were in constant running in this field, and the York Highflyer, and the Devonport mail, frequently by some unaccountable mistake came in direct collision; they generally

ran in teams of four, and fortunate was the youth whose purse would allow him to lay in provender for his horses, as boys assuming the nature of that noble animal, found that they could not forego what is termed the feed, any more than those they represented. Kites were flying constantly in all directions, some in the grotesque shape of men, resembling with their wings Dædalus and his son Icarus in their flying trip to Crete; others like eagles, soaring majestically in the air, ready to pounce upon or entangle their smaller brethren, looking down with an air of contempt on the insignificant creatures below. On the twine that connected the kite with the party flying it, were dispatched messengers, that is, a round piece of card, or paper, which placed on the line, the breeze blowing against it, propelled it onwards, until it reached its destination, and was supposed to convey the wishes of the flyer to its now exalted subject. A kite loose! A kite loose! conveyed as much terror as a cry of

fire, and a rush towards that part of the field whence the signal of distress issued was the consequent result.

Crouched like puss in boots, who waited to pull the strings of the snare into which the simple rabbits ventured, or the sly tabby with its eye upon a mouse, so did the Green-coat Boys lurk in an adjacent field, and watch with feelings of delight the truant kite, which, breaking from the control of its owner, now reeled and soared far beyond the bounds of our own little territory. Thus, when a kite got loose, unless it fell within our limits, it was invariably lost, and became the prey of those juvenile pirates. The Green-coat Boys were members of a school supported by the inhabitants of Hertford, and were guilty of great plagiarism in their dress, which they assimilated as much as possible to our own: instead of the blue coat they wore green, but their knee-breeches, bands, and caps were close imitations of ours.

From their ungenerous dispositions we were

always engaged in hostilities, and mutual volleys of stones on these occasions were often discharged. However, we carried our animosity to no greater length, for when a charity sermon was preached for their benefit in the parish church, we were ever ready, by the contributions of our weekly allowance, to increase the funds of their institution.

The field is bounded on the right by the garden belonging to the master of the grammar-school, and on the left, by that of the steward. The walls of the gardens belonging to the nurses formed the western barrier, and the palings at the eastern extremity separated us from a piece of ground employed in agricultural purposes ; sometimes the bloom of the potato appearing on its surface, at others the green leaf of the turnip. From this spot may be had a pretty good view of the road leading to London, and all passing to and fro meet the eager gaze of the Blue-coat Boy.

The county gaol is mournfully pre-eminent,

and stands on the right-hand side as you leave Hertford, and at the period of my narrative it was an object of great curiosity to the visitor, in consequence of the murderer Thurtell having recently expiated his offence from a scaffolding erected in front of the building. The contrast to the observer must appear striking: within a stone's throw may be seen blended together, the opening bud and the blighted blossom; on the one hand, minds like the early flowers of spring, opening and expanding their petals to the genial influence of the sun; while on the other are presented noxious weeds, which have been plucked by the hands of justice as unfit to mingle with the healthier classes of the community. Near the steward's garden is situated the marble mart, where a kind of exchange is carried on, the fortunate winners disposing of their marbles for an equivalent in money. Shoot in the ring, odd and even, and pitch in the hole, are the leading games; the first a game of science, the two lat-

ter of chance. The steward, being a chicken-fancier, kept large quantities in the field, where there existed a likelihood of their thriving. There were amongst them several very aristocratic in appearance, with topple crowns on their heads, which we called kings and queens: it was fine sport after giving them a run round the field, to catch and confine them in our grass-houses, which often gave way, the crested head of the chicken appearing where the roof should have been. Cricket also formed part of our field-sports, and though we were not good players, our afternoons passed quickly away, while engaged in this pleasant pastime.

Scattered as we were in all directions during play-hours, it was of course a great difficulty out of so great a number, to discover a boy when wanted by his friends, and two or three messengers were dispatched to different parts to find the person desired. The name having been called by the seeker, at the highest possible pitch of the voice, the surname first, then

the christian, and again the surname, was pronounced ; if, for instance, John Jones was the party sought, " Jones, John Jones," was the cry ; and it was continued until John Jones was found.

Coleridge, the author of *Christabel*, who was Grecian in the year 1791, mentions this circumstance in his delightful letters,* and the pride he experienced when found by these seekers as follows :—

" I distinctly remember what a flush of pride and consequence I used to feel at Christ's Hospital, when the boys came running to me, exclaiming, ' Coleridge, here's your friends want you : they are quite *grand*, ' or ' it is quite a *lady*. ' " In addition to this, he also adds, and it is a truth known to every Blue, that the outward appearance of a visitor has great weight with the reception he may experience. " Thus from eight years old, until I reached eighteen, I was habituated, nay naturalized, to look up

* Letters, &c. of S. T. Coleridge, vol, 2, p. 85.—*Moxon*.

to mere circumstance." This may be accounted for by the seclusion in which a Blue-coat Boy is reared, and the scrutiny undergone by his friends among the scholars, who like many other foolish persons are too apt to be governed by appearances.

As the shades of evening in the summer-time would gently steal over us, and warn us that the period of rest approached, we formed ourselves into small parties, and visited the various grass-houses, soliciting wood and grass for the coming morrow, and chanting one of the delightful ditties peculiar to the establishment, as a small recompense for the favours received. The following is a tolerable sample of the doggerel of which these rhymes consisted :

" Oh ! Billy, Oh ! Billy, I love you well,
 I love you better than one can tell.
 My father came home quite late at night,
 And bade me bring the candle-light,
 He went up stairs, the door he broke,
 He found me hanging by a rope,
 Then taking his knife he cut me down,
 And in my bosom this note was found :—

' Oh! dig my grave both wide and deep,
With marble stones to cover my feet.
Hark, hark! the bell does toll,
Lord have mercy on my soul:
I don't care where my body lies,
So as my soul to heaven flies.' "

Before bidding adieu to the field, I would add, give the Blue-coat Boy a holiday, a grass-house, beneath the covering of which, like a second Gulliver in Lilliput, stretched at length upon the grass, he may screen his face from the sun,—a pan, that is a white basin, an appendage essential to his felicity, in which water is kept to allay his thirst,—and he would not change situations with the greatest potentate in Europe.

Since I have left Hertford a shed has been erected in the field, which affords grateful shelter during a shower, and prevents the confusion that formerly prevailed from the rushing of the boys towards the entrance, with their coats turned up over their heads, to protect them from the pelting rain, ere they could make to their different wards.

The playground forming the area of the buildings, the full extent of which may be seen from the entrance-gates, next deserves mention; for when the field is closed during the winter months, the games are carried on here. It is of a gravelly nature, gently sloping from the centre, in order that the rain may with greater facility pass to the gutters placed to receive it. Trees are planted on each side immediately facing the wards, and a space of about twelve feet in front, formed of pebbles and rough stones, separates them.

The games appertaining to the play-ground consisted of prisoners' base—two catch all—hop, step, and jump—all over—leap-frog, &c. &c., a detail of which would prove far from interesting to the general reader. A full account of them may be met with in the Boy's Own Book.

I well remember one Saturday afternoon, while enjoying the fun of "follow my leader," exhilarated no doubt by the high feeding in which my

companions and self had indulged, by turning our weekly allowance to the best account, in sundry purchases of cakes, almond hard-bake, and raspberry tarts. Our leader was a boy of great daring; the more impudent the trick the better he enjoyed it, and a long string of mimics followed close at his heels, ready for any mischief he might devise. At this stage of our proceedings an inoffensive Quaker advanced up the buildings from the entrance-gates; "Quack!" shouted our leader, "Quack!" echoed his second, and our puerile battery was instantly assailing, with a shout of derision, the modest form of the unassuming Quaker. Scarce a minute elapsed when the noise, like the rising of a covey of partridges, had subsided, ere friend Allen was by our side, like the gamekeeper of a country squire, alarmed by the report of fire-arms. He advanced towards us with the strides of an inhabitant of Brobdignag, and having taken us kindly under his protection, trotted us into the steward's office, when we were instantly dis-

patched to the party aggrieved to make the most abject apology.

In the pursuit of our games our greatest annoyance was the blue coat, which in running would catch us between our legs, and throw us down; this we remedied by tucking the ends in our girdles behind, buckling them as tight as possible. Another plan was to fold them up closely, and so place the coat-tail on our back, which presented the appearance of a soldier's knapsack, thus effectually preventing accidents of this description. This last-named plan was termed *making a roller*, and before the commencement of any game, *Who'll make us a roller?* was the favour asked by the players of each other.

The buildings, like the field, had its marble mart, facing the house of the master of the Grammar-school. A wall of about three feet, surmounted with iron railings, separated the garden in front from the playground, and in the ground against this wall holes were

scooped out, to allow the boys to partake of that uncertain game—pitch in the hole. An admirer of scholastic discipline might frequently be seen here, with book in hand, making the ledge of the wall his pretended class, and, with a cane, gratifying his propensity for corporeal castigation, by inflicting at his pleasure blows evidently more injurious to the instrument of punishment, than to the adamantine skulls of his imaginary pupils.

CHAPTER XI.

“ And thus, as in memory’s bark we shall glide,
To visit the scenes of our boyhood anew,
Tho’ oft we may see, looking down on the tide,
The wreck of full many a hope shining through,
Yet still, as in fancy we point to the flowers,
That once made a garden of all the gay shore,
Deceived for a moment, we’ll think them still ours,
And breathe the fresh air of life’s morning oncemore.”

MOORE.

DURING the summer evenings we were frequently allowed to go out for a walk, accompanied by our nurse. Oh how delightful was this privilege, when in the open fields, the cold formality of school dispensed with, we roamed through the green lanes and plucked the wild flowers to form a simple nosegay for our kind nurse. These were indeed evenings of surpassing bliss ; seated beneath some lofty oak, and viewing the grandeur of the setting sun, or roaming among the thick underwood, to gather

a plant known to us by a name of our own, and styled, lords and ladies.* Greater happiness than that experienced by us on these occasions it were impossible to taste.

But accidents we are assured will happen in the best regulated families, and this was our case. On the present occasion the names of the boys were called over before starting, and we sallied forth on our rambles. Crossing the river Lea we walked by its delightful banks, until we reached our favourite place of resort, Ware Park, beautifully situated on an eminence commanding the rich meadows that lie between Ware and Hertford. The mansion, of modern exterior, is elegantly fitted up, and the park and grounds possess all the advantages resulting from inequality of surface, abundance of water, fine plantations, and a rich surrounding country, at this time laughing in the gay garb of summer : in the meadows opposite to the park,

* *Arum maculatum*; it is common under hedges, and flowers in May.

on the south-east, are the springs of Chadwell, the proper source of the New River. These are concentrated in a small pool or basin, enclosed by a slight railing, from which the stream slowly issues in its course towards London, and is increased at a little distance by a cut from the River Lea.

Having gained the park, we revelled as we liked, scattered as a flock of sheep over the vast enclosure. In the avenue leading to the house was a large stone statue of a shepherd, reported by the knowing ones amongst us to have been frozen to death while superintending his flock ; this was looked on with much veneration. No place indeed was without its legend, and like all juveniles we were fond of the marvellous.

The nurse, considering we had had sufficient time for exercise and the inhalation of the balmy air, had much difficulty in collecting us together. On our names being again called over, one out of the number was missing ; scouts were

dispatched in all directions, to seek for him: one had seen him; he had even walked part of the way with him; another had joined him in gathering flowers by the margin of a stream, and warned him not to venture too near: judge our consternation at this intelligence: we hastened to the side of the river, and searched minutely, but no trace of him could we discover: one person, on being questioned, directed us one way, and immediately afterwards another the reverse. After a harassing search, one moment at one extremity of the park; at another, by some suggestion which revived our hopes, we wandered in an opposite direction, but no trace could we discover of the absentee.

Tired and wearied, we returned home, fearing on our arrival to render an account of our loss. We entered the gates, and our tale, once told, spread like wildfire among the remainder of the boys. Having gained our ward, imagine the surprise of all at finding our lost companion stretched at full length upon a form, and enjoy-

ing the luxury of a delightful slumber, totally ignorant of the fright he had occasioned, and perhaps traversing in his sleep those very walks in which we had sought for him. He had not been present at the muster before leaving for our walk, and some boy ignorantly or wilfully answered to his name on being called, and thus ensued the scene of confusion I have just described.

With the exception of these occasional walks, our holidays were passed within the walls of the Hospital; part of the time in active exercise, and the remainder in gazing at the passers-by, from the entrance-gates. The cry of gates! the gates! had as much magic in its sound as that of an itinerant showman at a country fair, astonishing the rustics by his unceasing jargon, in which may be caught at intervals the text of his discourse. At this sound the majority of the boys, knowing something to be in the wind, hasten to the gates; and as so many caged birds, in their desire for liberty,

beat themselves sore against the bars of their prison-house, so do they eagerly press against these insurmountable barriers, to gaze upon the intellectual treat of Punch and Judy, or the wondrous feats of Tom and Jerry. Frequently on a half-holiday have I stood before these gates, and with a companion idly spent the afternoon; he counting the conveyances going towards London, while I took an account of those entering Hertford; and when the bell summoned us to supper, he that had counted the larger number became the winner. The Plough, a public-house situated a little above the Hospital, and the rendezvous of the staff of the recruiting service, often contributed to our amusement. Oh, how soul-stirring was the sound of the fife and drum! and how truly grand the appearance of the two leaders, with drawn swords gleaming in the sun! better far to view than to feel; and then how our sides would shake with laughter, to see the awkward gait of the country bumpkins, who

strove to keep time to the appropriate air of the Rogue's March, as they staggered in their efforts, presenting an appearance far less martial than the redoubtable army of Bombastes Furioso.

The greatest treat we experienced in the way of sight-seeing was a contested election, which came like angels' visits, few and far between. In the year 1826, the parliament which had existed from the beginning of the reign of George IV. was dissolved, and a general election taking place, we enjoyed to the full the stirring event. As the election occurred previously to the passing of the Reform Act, it extended at the will of the candidates over the space of a fortnight, and Hertford for a time became the scene of riot and confusion. Bands and colours constantly paraded the streets, and men under the influence of liquor infested the public thoroughfares: this, however, mattered not to us, for we viewed the processions from a place of safety, and our iron gates screened us from the passing mob. At its

termination, when Messrs. Byron and Duncombe were declared the successful candidates, we were allowed to venture outside, and, placing ourselves in a line with the wall fronting the girls' school, to view the joyous spectacle. The colours of Mr. Byron were red and white, Mr. Duncombe's, sky-blue, while those of Mr. Buller, the defeated candidate, were scarlet. The candidate who sported the greatest number of flags of course carried the interest of the Blue-coat Boys, and drew most largely on their esteem. Mr. Buller, from having several splendid banners, each of which required the support of four men, became the favourite, and a shout long and continued always welcomed his party, as they passed the gates. It was not the advocacy of the claims of the Roman Catholics that drew forth our enthusiasm on the day of charring, when Mr. Duncombe with his party passed by; it arose from a very different source. Who could behold the gorgeous mixture of cærulean blue, and the emblazonment of gold and silver on its silken

fold, and not be excited to the highest degree of rapture, increased, if possible, when the honourable gentleman made his appearance in a chair of state, decorated with blue ribbons, and carried on the shoulders of his delighted adherents; the chair bearing a decided resemblance to the car of Venus, when she arose from the sea.

The circuits of the judges of assize, which then occurred three times a year, offered a change to the usual monotony of the place: on these occasions we had a holiday, and attended church with the judges on the opening of the commission. The cavalcade of the High Sheriff with his attendants, the javelin-men, was viewed with much awe; and the two judges, Mr. Justice Gaselee, and Mr. Justice Vaughan, whose fine form presented a striking contrast to the short and stout frame of his colleague, were almost worshipped as they entered the house of prayer, greeted by the thundering peals of the organ.

The foregoing were the principal events worthy of mention, added to an occasional exhibition of jugglers, gipsies, &c., who after collecting our spare pence would decamp, leaving us minus our cash and the anticipated treat.

CHAPTER XII.

—————" So tedious is this day,
 As is the night before some festival
 To an impatient child, that hath new robes,
 And may not wear them."

SHAKSPEARE.

HAVING entered Hertford early in April, it was not long before the approach of Easter gave me some degree of leisure, a week's holiday being allowed the scholar to celebrate the festivity in a becoming manner. Whitsuntide quickly succeeded, and with it came a new suit of clothes. Previous to this event, a gentleman arrives from the house of Jackson and Sons, slop-sellers, of Leadenhall-street, who then contracted for the clothing required by the establishment, bringing with him a curious instrument, used in the measurement of our re-

spective heights, and resembling in appearance that darling plaything of the French republicans, the Guillotine, the upper part of it, as the boy stood underneath, falling, at the desire of the person controlling it, on the top of his head; thus giving the exact height as each boy passed under the yoke. This deputy of Mr. Jackson was a sombre looking man, wearing Hessian boots, black clothes, and linen of unexceptionable whiteness; in truth, such a personage as may be seen every day in the streets of London, threading his way, hat in hand, with a large blue bag on his shoulders of gigantic dimensions, containing the funeral plumes about to ornament with their finery the mournful procession of some wealthy citizen to his long last home.

The ceremony of measuring over, a sufficient interval takes place to allow of the completion of the order, which is always ready three days before Whitsunday, when the task of clothing commences. Our presence being

required in the hall the greater part of these days, our scholastic duties terminated on the Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Cotton, the receiver and wardrobe-keeper in London, superintends the distribution of the various articles of clothing, assisted by the steward and the other officers of the school. The bell rings when all the arrangements are completed, and the boys pass round the hall, receiving from the tables on which they are placed their shirts, stockings, &c. &c. The parties assisting decide at a glance what will suit their customer, for, the sizes of the coats, &c. being numbered, varying from one to five, a great lad requires a coat No. 1, a little fellow No. 5, and the middle class the intermediate numbers.

The distribution of the girdles is conducted by the Steward : of these there are two sorts; for the commoners a plain narrow one, and for the monitors one of broader dimensions, stamped with various devices, the head of the youthful Edward being conspicuous. The girdles of the

monitors being without buckles, afford a wide field for the display of their taste, some wearing them plain, others gaudy, studded with jeweller's paste and imitation stones. The clothes, as soon as delivered, are carried by the boys to their different wards, and then marked with their initials, and the number they hold. Our shoes were supplied in like manner, but more frequently, as once a quarter we were new-shod by Mr. Rayner the cobbler, and his helpmates, who stood with shoeing-horns in their hands, ready to fit them on : these, however, were rarely used, for they were not very precise as to the fit. Thus, fully equipped, we waited anxiously for the grand festival of Whitsunday, that we might appear in our new clothes.

When Shakspeare wrote "Romeo and Juliet," he perhaps had in his mind's eye the interval of impatience which intervenes from the day of clothing the Blue-coat Boy, until he is allowed to appear in public,* robed in his

* Romeo and Juliet, Act iii. Scene 2.

new habiliments, and hence the production of the text* with which I have headed the present chapter.

The Whitsuntide holidays consisted of three clear days from the Sunday; and when these were over the boys looked forward for the next great event, viz., Governors' Day; on which occasion, the Treasurer, attended by such of the Governors as may think proper, visit Hertford to inspect the different portions of the establishment and examine the boys as to the progress attained in their several studies. This annual visitation takes place usually at the beginning of July, on which eventful morning, dressed in our Sunday best, we awaited in the different schools the arrival of our inspectors. The schoolrooms having been washed the previous day, looked as clean as the most fastidious could desire. Mr. Ludlow, with much taste, after placing a sheet of

* The clothing of the boys in London takes place at Easter, and on the following Monday and Tuesday they walk in procession to the Mansion House.

clean foolscap paper cut in the most approved fashion in the fire-place, decorated it with the choicest blossoms of his parterre, and all appeared in apple-pie order. At eleven o'clock the carriages began to arrive, and from that hour until twelve quickly succeeded each other.

The Governors assembled at the Steward's house, and, on the arrival of a sufficient number, the business of the day commenced. The appearance of Mr. Allen at the door of the Writing School was the signal for a general buzz, which as quickly subsided: open fly the doors, off goes Mr. Allen's hat! the perspiration streaming down his face from the magnitude of his exertions, while he makes a most reverential bow as his superiors advance. The usual visitors on these occasions were the Treasurer, Thomas Poynder, Esq., Sir J. Lubbock, and Sir W. Curtis, Barts., Messrs. Ponton, Alston, Few, Helps, &c. &c., and last, though not least, Lewis Hayes Petit, Esq., with his merry laugh and benevolent physiognomy, who gathered

golden opinions from the boys, from the liberal manner in which he distributed his silver among them. Our catechists were far from severe in their examinations, and it would have been of little importance if they had been less lenient ; for like so many parrots, we had been drilled for the evolutions of that day for weeks before, and constant practice eventually makes perfect. The scholastic portion of our duties completed, we directed our attention to the coming dinner, which on this day was increased in quantity. To see such great folks as the Governors partaking with relish of our humble fare, made us satisfied with our food, for if *they* enjoyed it, *we* ought indeed to be content. After the dinner-hour, the Governors inspected the wards ; and then came the crack event of the day, viz., a general scramble in the field, for money thrown by one of the visitors among the boys.

Caligula, the tyrant of Rome, delighted in this diversion ; and the last day of his life, as history informs us, was spent in this amusement ! Happy

had it been for him, and for his subjects, had he passed more of his time in these innocent pastimes. Oh! that he could have collected in the Forum one thousand Blue-coat Boys! the sport would then have been the very acmé of perfection.

To the field we quickly repaired, and the Governor having changed his crown for an equivalent in copper, had ample amusement for his money. Here, in the greatest confusion, three hundred boys contended for the precious coin; heads came in contact, and the tug of war was indeed severe: black eyes and swollen lips were the results, and the penny picked up in these encounters frequently went for the purchase of vinegar to allay the swellings of the contusions received.

After the scramble, to finish the day properly, the Governors had a dinner in the hall, to which the masters were invited; good wine and good fellowship compensating them for the fatigues

of the day. On these festivals I have stood at the hall door, and surveyed with longing eyes the savoury dishes as they ascended the stairs, wishing that when they returned they might perchance retain some portion of their original contents. Often did my kind friend Mr. Gwatkins, the beadle, gratify my longings by slipping into my hand some remnant of the repast.

At seven o'clock the carriages formed in a line in the centre of the buildings, to convey their respective owners to town. If the reader has never heard a Blue-coat Boy shout for a holiday, let him go to Hertford on an occasion like the present, and hear the cheering that attends each carriage, as it drives out of the gates, and he will not hesitate to declare it is fairly earned. On these gala days,—for in that light they must be considered,—our good nurse Mrs. Smith, ever ready to add to our enjoyments, provided for our suppers gooseberry-fool, or cream-cheese

with radishes, which it is superfluous to say formed a delicious repast.

I had scarcely been at Hertford two months, when a lad from the neighbourhood in which my mother lived entered the school, and our parents being known to each other, I received much attention, and was taken out to spend the day. In order that a favourable account might be conveyed home, I was desired by Mrs. Smith to repeat from memory the prayers appointed for the evening, to the assembled ward. I am happy to say I got through them with credit. The sight to a stranger must have been pleasing, to behold a little fellow like myself repeating before fifty boys those beautiful prayers. Mrs. Smith was indeed a kind friend, and brought me forward on several other occasions. In Mrs. Trimmer's Selection from the New Testament, there is a short lesson consisting only of six verses, from the third chapter of St. Matthew, beginning, "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him;" it

was curious that this was always chosen for the appointed portion on washing-nights, whether in allusion to the coming ablution, or on account of its brevity, is a riddle I will not undertake to solve.

CHAPTER XIII.

" Bring your fun, your frolic bring, boys ;
 Throw your wisdom all away ;
 Let the roof with laughter ring, boys ;
 Now for home and holiday.
 Grammars, dictionaries, sum-books—
 Plagues that words can ne'er define !
 Are at best but precious hum-books—
 Nouns that we will now decline."

PETER PARLEY.

THE August holidays usually commenced on the first Saturday in that month, and extended over a space of four weeks ; and the days, hours, and even minutes that must elapse till their advent, formed the subject of calculation during school-hours. Leave of absence was obtained of the steward, who, on the receipt of letters from the parents of the boys, called them to his table at the following meal, to apprise them of the circumstance, and grant his permission.

Those boys whose friends resided at a great distance were permitted to leave for home two or three days before the remainder, but were expected to return with the others. The day previous to our departure was indeed a busy one, and, as if we had been neglected hitherto, the scrubblings we underwent on that day were a trial of patience. 'Soft as butter' were the sayings of our nurses, who, in the contemplation of a separation from their charges, lathered us not only with soap, but with a variety of messages to our several mammas, evidently, as the vulgar have it, "throwing a sprat to catch a herring." In making these remarks I claim special exemption for my dear old nurse, Mrs. Smith, but I have had cause to know that such feelings actuated others, with whom I had the misfortune to be placed. It was a custom amongst us to have our favourite psalms suited for particular events, and on this evening the hundred and thirty-third Psalm, old version, was chosen, the first verse of which runs thus:—

" Oh! how happy a thing it is,
And joyful for to see,
Brethren together fast to hold,
The bands of amity!"

Our new version of which is rendered as follows :—

" Oh! how happy a thing it is
And joyful for to see,
Blue-coat Boys upon the coach,
Elate with youthful glee."

If the reader be curious to see the parcel of a Blue-coat Boy, containing the necessary changes of apparel, when he leaves Hertford for the vacation, let him hasten to the Four Swans, Bishopsgate-street, and on the day fixed he will behold some thirty or forty happy faces descending from the coach, of which the first has only just arrived. I warrant me he will rub his eyes, and wonder where they could all have been stowed; and yet within that vehicle some dozen have been melting 'neath a broiling sun, burthened with their thick dress; but they care not for the heat: they have carolled, they have laughed the whole of the

way ; the road has resounded with their holiday cry, "Good bye, church ! farewell, steeple ! good bye, all the Hertford people !" mixed, by way of variation, with the following :—

"To-day is the day, to-morrow's the man,
Next day catch me if you can."

In like manner as the scholars are stowed, so is the parcel of clothes which accompanies each. You see a small blue bundle resembling a Christmas pudding, or, to be more orthodox, a pulpit cushion, so securely sewed together, that it would be a puzzle to know how to open it. Kind reader, the outside shell of that parcel, is the boy's coat, and within, closely packed, four shirts, four pairs of stockings, one pair of shoes, six clerical bands, with girdle and cap, and lastly, a skein of yellow worsted, placed there by the nurse, ever mindful of the old proverb, "A stitch in time saves nine," and that there may be no excuse for holes in the stockings of the boys on their return, on the score that none could be procured to match.

The privilege of sleeping out, as the August vacation is called, was formerly granted only once in three years; about thirty years ago it became biennial, and it is now very properly an annual indulgence. Our certificate,* or passport, was pinned inside the bosom of our coats overnight, and night alone intervened between the wished-for morrow and the realization of long-cherished hopes. How often on that eventful night, as the revolving year caused it once more to visit us, have I laid me down to slumber, and wooed the kind embrace of sleep! Alas! I was an unfortunate suitor: in consequence of the excitement of the previous day, I got no rest, and lay parched and feverish on my bed, until the beams of morning cheered

* The purport of this certificate is to inform the parents of the boys of the time allowed for absence; also to warn any boy, that, if, during the vacation, he shall have been known to have changed his dress, he will be expelled; it then prohibits the appearance of any boy in London during that time, under the like penalty, and points out the boundaries to which they are restricted.

me with their light. The remainder of the time, until summoned by the bell, was passed in mimic warfare, such as bolstering, &c., when we rose to prepare for breakfast, previously to mounting the coach. Once on the highway to London, it was not long ere we gained it, when a kind friend, meeting me in Bishopsgate-street, undertook to transplant me to the coach for M——: judge of my disappointment at finding it full, the precaution of securing me a place having been neglected. However, I was not at school, and my friend made me very comfortable at his hospitable home. Being of a theatrical turn, he was resolved that I should accompany him, for the first time in my life, to one of the metropolitan theatres. I must confess I was rather frightened at his proposition: in vain I took the certificate from my bosom, which prohibited my remaining in London; all was of no avail; he seemed desirous of witnessing the effect it would produce. Accordingly, about seven o'clock I found myself quietly seated in

the stage-box of the Coburg theatre, and about to witness the Pilot, in which Mr. T. P. Cooke was to appear, and dance his favourite hornpipe. But my conscience was ill at ease: I feared the consequences of my disobedience. Being very small, my chin just reached the front of the box, so that I thought I could witness the representation without being seen; and so I might, had my prudence been equal to my curiosity. As the play advanced, I became more daring, and when the hornpipe was *encored*, I, eager to catch every step of the dancer, thrust my body half out of the box, having previously elevated myself on a chair. I was discovered, and the remainder of the evening I sat in fear. A fiddler in the orchestra, evidently aware of the prohibition, from being connected with some friends of a boy then at the school, shook his fiddlestick at me, which he constantly repeated, accompanying it with a gesture, as much as to say 'I know you, you young rogue.' Had I been on the right side of

the hedge, I should most certainly have bound him over to keep the peace. The recognition of the violinist, which seemed death to me, afforded immense fun to my friend, who enjoyed the joke, and talks of it to this day.

I will not cloy the reader with an account of all the kind sayings of my mother on my arrival at home, or the remarks made on my yellow stockings, and the symmetrical calves they displayed ; it will suffice to know I was fondly received, and I have since heard my mother remark, no boy ever came from school more placid in manners than myself, and few became more unruly before their return, which caused her to think me, no doubt, twice welcome, welcome to come, and welcome to return. The first evening I was at home, which was that of the Sabbath, I was taken for a delightful walk, passing through fields of corn, partly cut, and placed in sheaves ready to be carried, previous to the celebration of the harvest-home. Situated between two of these fields, separating them from each

other, ran a purling stream, the gentle murmur of which sounded soothingly on the ear, before you reached the spot; the trees, with friendly shelter screened it from the gaze of the passers-by, and altogether it was a retreat where Diana might have bathed unmolested by any modern Actæon. This stream, after meandering through beds of violets, and other wild-flowers, terminated in a kind of pool, round which stones had been placed to dam it in. As a young duck, oppressed with the heat of summer, views with delight the fall of genial rain,—so did I, languid with the sultry atmosphere, and the warmth of the dog-days, long to paddle in those pellucid waters, and determined on the morrow to revisit the spot, and with a companion enjoy at our leisure this eastern luxury.

Morning came, and ere the sun had reached its meridian, I was at the appointed place, accompanied by the schoolfellow, who also resided at M——, and whose arrival at Hertford I have recently mentioned. Being heated with my

walk, I wished my companion to enter the water first, and just try the depth not that I was afraid of doing so myself, but I considered prudence the better part of valour. We commenced stripping silently, I managing to keep a little behind my companion ; for somehow, I always felt a little queer at the idea of a first plunge. In jumped my companion ; his head, dripping with wet, was just emerging from the water, when he disappeared, in consequence of a large clod of earth having been thrown with unerring aim from a neighbouring field, which, falling on him, caused this extra ducking ; and on looking over the adjoining hedge, I perceived several sons of the soil, evidently preparing to give us a warm reception. A hedge separated us, and we, thinking to make off before they could overtake us, and forgetting that we were in a primitive state of nudity, and had to dress ere we could sustain a flight with credit, began to be very saucy. A hedge to screen one is apt to increase the latitude of the

tongue. I gave my colleague a hand to help him out of the water, at the same time using language not the most civil to our assailants, who, making no more ado, jumped over the barrier, and, with rods of stinging-nettles in their hands, made directly towards us. I managed to gather up my clothes, as also my companion, but he having been in the water, the drippings from his hair somewhat obscured his vision, and retarded his retreat. As Hop-o'-my-thumb recollected his way by throwing pebbles at certain stages of his journey, thus retracing his steps and leading home his brothers, otherwise doomed to perish, so might I, by similar means, have remembered mine; for running naked up a shady lane, I dropped my girdle in one place, my shoes in another, my shirt deserting me in my flight, followed by my stockings. Being swift of foot, I eluded my pursuers, who, having captured my companion, seemed content to wreak their vengeance on him, by inflicting on his unprotected person the cruel

stripes of the rods they held. When my young friend again joined me, I was much shocked at his appearance, for already the stinging-nettles had caused large white blains to appear upon the surface of his skin. We then dressed, hurried home, and within our bosoms concealed the knowledge of this sad affair. Kind reader, we had unconsciously been trespassing on private ground, and mistaken for a public bath, the inviting appearance of a sheep-wash!

CHAPTER XIV.

In the garb of a Friar I once was drest,
 With a leathern belt for my purple vest,
 While breeches encircled my tiny knee,
 As an island girt by the sunlit sea.
 My neck with clerical bands was graced,
 And a small black cap on my head was placed :
 For a prouder fellow you ne'er could see,
 Than I in the days of my infancy.

My legs shone bright with the hue of gold,
 My shoes were dull with a tinge of mould,
 But what was that to a man like me ?
 My heart was light and my thoughts were free.
 Oh ! I looked the monk in my new-made clothes ;
 Where I strutted my figure a cry arose,
 And folks peeped forth from their blinds at me,
 Like so many Toms of Coventry.

THE appearance of a Blue-coat Boy created much surprise with the rustics, who crowded to their doors to obtain a glimpse of me as I

passed, thinking me doubtless some *rara avis* who had escaped the vigilance of its keepers, and roamed at large in their green fields.

It was very seldom I met with insult, and then only from ragged urchins, who I regret to say assume a license to insult whom they please. I always found silent contempt the best remedy, and I trust the Blue-coat Boy of the present day will have the good sense in this respect to follow my example.

The holiday-time flew quickly and perhaps a question may arise, How is a Blue-coat Boy to be kept out of mischief for so long a period? my answer is, that youth, like champagne, is worthless without a little effervescence, and the trifling peccadilloes a boy may commit are excusable, provided he is not actuated by a self-willed and revengeful disposition. My own adventures during this time of relaxation may be considered a tolerable sample of the manner in which we whiled the hours away.

'The town of M—— being an assize town,

and the month of August the period at which the judges went the circuit, I spent the greater portion of the first week in listening to the trials; those in the Criminal Court possessing more charms for me than the dry law-suits of the *Nisi Prius*.

About the middle of this my first vacation, I was offered by a friend the use of his pony, which he kept expressly for the juvenile branches of his family, and which offer I was exceedingly glad to accept. I accordingly mounted my *Bucephalus*, as a matter of course getting up on the wrong side, and quietly walked him up the High-street of M, — when, leading him in the gutter instead of the middle of the thoroughfare, he very unceremoniously threw me, leaving me in the kennel, which, I have no doubt, from my style of riding, he thought a safer place for me, while he resumed his proper station in the centre of the road. The pony being small, I did not suffer from my fall; the greater pain was produced by the titter of the

passers-by. Determined to have my revenge, I mounted the little animal, and rode him that afternoon a distance of sixteen miles, viz., from M—— to Chatham, and back again. I had no notion of taxes in those days, and on arriving at the turnpike-gate, I thought it would as easily yield at my desire as the door of the robbers' cave to Alla Baba by the magic words of Open, sesame! I had passed the first gate, which was open, without molestation, but, behold, the second was closed against me; I began to think my Quixotic expedition at an end, but on the gate-keeper advancing, my grotesque appearance found favour in his sight, and on my affirmation that I had no money in my pocket, he kindly allowed me to pass. I must indeed have been a curious figure, with my blue coat covering the hind quarters of my charger, as the cloak of a life-guardsman that of his war-steed on a rainy day. Had it been winter instead of summer, I scarcely know what I should have done; for my yellow petticoat would have pre-

vented me crossing the horse, so that I must either have had a side-saddle to ride with, or abandoned equestrian exercise altogether. Conscious that I should incur the displeasure of my mother for having ridden so far, I kept the exploit to myself, though I was on the very eve of revealing it, more than once, from the pain I suffered. Murder, however, will out, as the Newgate Calendar sufficiently attests; for on the following Sunday my mother took me, in company with my sisters, to spend the day at Chatham, when we had to pass over the very same ground: in vain I endeavoured to make myself as small on this occasion as I had wished to appear great on the other; I could not escape the vigilant gate-keeper, who, on advancing to receive the toll, quickly espied me, and claimed the privilege of an old acquaintance: an explanation then ensued, much to my mortification, and I received a well-merited rebuke for my duplicity.

I often spent the day in fishing, though I was no genuine angler; for so little did I relish taking the fish from the line when caught, that I wore a glove expressly for this purpose. One day, on throwing out my line carelessly as usual, the hook happened to catch the white down of the neck of a stately swan, who was sailing like a proud vessel on the bosom of the water, with all imaginable majesty. This disaster was much increased by the movement of the gallant bird, who, instead of taking an opposite direction, which would have broken the hook, made with all speed directly towards me, cleaving the water with his breast, in very angry mood. What was to be done? I had read stories of the great strength of these birds—how mischievous boys who had excited their ire, had in return received sundry marks of their displeasure, in the shape of fractured limbs and dislocated joints. One moment alone remained for decision. I must either submit to a similar infliction,

or like a coward, fly. Consoling myself with the words of the old rhyme,

“ He that in battle runs away,
May live to fight another day,”

I resolved on the latter, and left my rod and line in the possession of the victor, who gracefully towed them along, the hook remaining in his neck the greater part of the afternoon. Having at length obtained assistance, a council of war was held, at which it was determined that we should proceed in a boat, (which luckily was at hand,) and strive to recover the lost tackle, which, after a warm pursuit, we accomplished ; leaving however the hook in the neck of our opponent, who, as many an old campaigner long carries with him as a token of remembrance a bullet received during an engagement, retained in its downy neck the proofs of that day's contest. These, and such like diversions, soon exhausted the four weeks' holidays, which, towards the close, were wound up by a slight disarrangement of the digestive organs, caused by an indul-

gence in fruit, and other luxuries unknown at school.

This surmounted, I was in good trim for the approaching change, and after a melancholy adieu to my friends, mounted the coach once more, and turned my face to the metropolis. How often during the journey, did I wish the wheels would quietly dissolve partnership with the coach, as the hands and feet in the fable deserted the body, rendering the efforts of each nugatory. But the age of miracles had ceased, and my wish, had it been granted, might have been at the expense of a limb, or some serious accident.

From London I was quickly conveyed to Hertford, and, like a newly made widow, was for a time inconsolable, while the indulgences of home were sadly missed. But the heavier the storm, the greater the probability of its soon clearing up, and the grief, at first so intense, soon gave way to my usual elasticity. Among my companions on half-holidays were the

Steward's children, who used frequently to visit Mrs. Smith. As winter drew on apace, on a Saturday afternoon we used to creep between the high horse on which the boys' linen was airing, and there celebrate our festivities, receiving and returning visits like the most polished members of society, imagining fowls and turkeys frequent dishes at our table, while a leg of mutton was carved with much greater nicety by us children, than an adult could have managed it. Our bill of fare presented a tempting appearance to the gourmand. The *outs*, or weekly allowance supported the expenses of our establishment, for we cut our coats according to our cloth. Arranging puzzles, and reading simple stories followed our repast, and the Saturday afternoons appeared to fly much quicker than any other during the week. When Sunday appeared, I often hastened to the little garden before the Steward's house, to receive from his amiable daughter, my playmate, choice sprigs of sweetbriar, and other flowers, placing them in the

button-hole of my coat for the day ; and when they faded I collected the leaves and placed them separately in the pages of my Bible ; thus my book was constantly kept filled by my little favourite.

About Michaelmas, the evenings becoming more gloomy, candles were used at supper, and the first office I ever held was that of candle-boy ; the smallest boys being selected for that purpose. I can hardly convey to the reader an accurate description of these candlesticks ; they were peculiar to the Establishment ; the upper part of them slim and genteel, the bottom larger in proportion, and containing some weighty substance to preserve their equilibrium. In leaving the hall on these evenings, we returned to our wards in procession, two by two, with lighted candles, the bell ringing with a short quick sound. From the 1st of November to the 1st of March, our hours changed ;—from that time we rose at seven o'clock instead of six, and discontinued the hour at school before breakfast, between

which meal and prayers there was now no interval, the prayers being said immediately before breakfast. The time for school during the morning was from nine o'clock until twelve, and in the afternoon from half-past one until four. We supped at five, and were often in bed by six, where we remained until seven the next morning, thus having thirteen hours devoted to sleep, which the greatest sluggard must have considered ample. When the frosty weather set in, sliding was enjoyed by us all, and a quantity of water was laid down for that purpose in the gutters, stopped at each end by an embankment of earth. I frequently stood at the ward door, and watched the water as it froze, every now and then running down to its side, and dipping in my fingers, to ascertain the progress it had made.

CHAPTER XV.

“ Hither all ye smiling faces,
Gather round the festive board,
With your looks and wry grimaces,
May your appetites accord.
Let’s laugh and sing, and make good cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.”
OLD SONG.

To the Blue-coat Boy, Christmas cannot approach too quickly ; for it is, or rather was, one of the two great festivals, duly celebrated within the walls at Hertford—hence it was an event of some importance. Oh ! what joyous anticipations animate the countenances of the boys, as on Christmas Eve they decorate the windows of the day-room with holly and misletoe. How beautiful everything appears ! It is the depth of winter, and yet the interior of their habitation is as green as the gardens in summer-time ; the red berries too,

amid the evergreens, how cheerful they look—resembling the red breasts of the little robins amid the snows of winter, or the glittering stars, with their light relieving the monotony of night ! Listen to the fire ! how it crackles ! ah, some urchin has stolen a Christmas log, and the fire like a woman, cannot keep a secret. With all this joy—this exuberance of feeling—the origin of the festival is never once forgotten. The boys have assembled in the portico beneath the hall, and the north wind conveys their carol to the ear,

“ Hark ! the herald angels sing,
 Glory to the new-born King,
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled ! ”

These are the events preparatory to Christmas, and when the morning dawns, that glorious morning on which the dayspring from on high visited mankind, the Blue-coat Boy rises happy from his pillow, to prepare himself for church, and terminate the day with festivity and innocent recreation. Christmas-night and Twelfth-night

were the only two on which we were allowed to remain up longer than our usual time, and these we duly appreciated. I have spent many a holiday previous to this in the cellar beneath the day-room of my ward, in fashioning me a sword of wood, resembling, as near as memory would allow, the short Roman weapon used by the standard-bearer of the tenth legion under Cæsar, when he invaded Britain, and who in pictorial illustrations of this event is represented as the first leaping from the galleys, and leading his comrades to victory. Thus, from the goodness of my weapon if not from valour, I thought I had acquired a right to lead my companions to battle, in the bloodless engagements of the coming night. Church over, and the hands of the clock once more pointing to the hour of five, the bell, heard with intense delight, called us to supper, which took place in our wards.

Reader, are you hungry?—shut these pages

for a minute, and appease your appetite, lest the withdrawal of the covers from the dishes make your mouth water; for the mention of plum-puddings and mince-pies has frequently a tendency that way. Here, then, spread out upon the tables, behold, not our customary meal of bread and cheese, but a multitudinous array of tempting viands, and standing by their side, like cannon-balls at a fortress, pyramids of oranges, from the foundation of, one of which a sly rogue has just removed the cornerstone, and ere its owner can look around, the fabric has fallen, and the fruit is scattered over the table. It was for this night we had undergone difficulties great and trying—spending our leisure hours in the Writing School, under the tender mercies of Mr. Martyr or the junior usher, in writing home, specifying the luxuries desired. The rough, or as it was termed the foul copy of our letter was written on our slates, and after divers corrections we were allowed to transcribe

it on a fine sheet of quarto post, ruled the size of round hand, in pencil, and when finished, rubbed out ; just to give our parents an idea of how straight we could write when we were so inclined. The difficulty of all this, added to the rap on the knuckles we received when the ink blotted the paper, may easily be conceived ; but all was now past, and in the present moment of hilarity, we forgot our former troubles.

I recollect that after I had been at Hertford about two years, my ideas having become enlarged as well as my demands, I determined to avoid this public letter-writing, and alone in my ward quietly pen my demands ; and being a favourite of the servant, she kindly consented to convey it to the post. Among other extravagant requests I wrote for a cold duck stuffed, which, for a long time caused much merriment at home, my mother desiring to know how she could send it on a cold winter's day from M—— to Hertford, a distance of sixty miles, in any other

condition. As a great number of the boys preferred their presents at Twelfth-night instead of Christmas, and went shares with those who did not, the feasting was general throughout the Hospital. After supper, we entered with spirit into the different games customary, such as blind-man's-buff, storm the castle, &c. &c. Those less noisy passing the evening in asking riddles and playing at forfeits. A leading source of amusement was dressing a boy up as what we called a dumb dolly, to represent an Egyptian mummy, his legs being swaddled with counterpanes and blankets: thus attired, he was carried on the shoulders of six or eight boys, from the chamber where he had retired to robe, and being placed on the floor of the day-room, with his face concealed, he was questioned by the boys as to what quarter the wind was in, which he signified by lifting his immense leg or arm slowly from the ground. He had then to point out the greatest rogue among the company, which he did in like manner, to the no small

chagrin of the unfortunate wight pitched upon. These were the principal feats, and if the reader has witnessed the performances of Toby the learned pig at some provincial fair, he would call those of the dumb dolly decided plagiarisms: to know who the dumb dolly might be, was a matter of great curiosity with the lookers on. By way of a finale a contest then took place between the French and English, which, as a matter of course, ended in favour of the latter.

Having got through the programme of our evening's amusement, we were not long before once more in bed, we dreamed of the fortnight's holidays, which always accompanied Christmas, and how we could employ our time to the best advantage during that delightful recess. Twelfth-night followed quickly on the heels of Christmas: and while in bed the previous evening, how we listened for the sound of the porter's wheelbarrow, as its rumbling noise was heard advancing! and how our hearts palpitated, how delicious the state of uncertainty in which we

remained when his well-known knock was heard at the ward door! and when the fortunate names of those whose parcels had arrived were announced, how we again threw ourselves on our pillows, and wished that our star might be more propitious the next time! To a Blue-coat Boy, the more gaudy the outside of a cake, so much the more valuable it became in his estimation. He looked not to quality; and many careful mammas took the precaution of giving a gay exterior, while the taste was far from coming up to the expectations created by its appearance: this was of little moment, and as Hone says, to eat twelfth-cake requires no recipe, so all a Blue had to do when he received his cake at the appointed time, was to find his way to his mouth. On the receipt of the cakes by the nurse, they were placed for show on tables in the wardrobe, ticketed with the owners' names, and on the morning of Twelfth-day viewed by the masters, and other officers of the Establishment. The sight to me in those

days appeared very grand, and No. 6 ward usually carried off the palm in these exhibitions. The sheet of characters which usually accompanied the cakes was not drawn for, as is customary on Twelfth-night, but saved until after the feast, and then cut out, forming a very amusing game, and played by two : they were dealt out like a pack of cards, in two equal shares, the party not dealing first laid a character upon the table; this was followed by one from the other player, and then came the question of precedence: while Colonel Firebrace took Corporal Trotter, all went well; but when Billy Barlow and Johnny Jones fell together, who was to decide? and thus the game sometimes terminated abruptly, neither party liking to yield to the other. Supper-time arrived, a gay scene greeted the visitor: in the place where each boy sat, on the snow-white tablecloth was placed his cake, and beside it a knife, which he longed to put in use: in the centre of the table, the largest cake was elevated above the others, and

around it a guard of honour, that is, four gigantic candles, which blazed away as though aware of the position they held. Dried fruits, with apples and oranges, graced the festive board, the peel of which was covetously hoarded for ammunition in the coming fray. Grace being said, knives went to work, and found their duties no sinecure. Kings were hurled from the thrones they had occupied, and thrust into our pockets, there to receive a closer scrutiny, on the first convenient opportunity, from the owners of cakes, who were afraid lest in their haste they should have overlooked any portion of the "sweet" adhering thereto. The boys who had shared their presents at Christmas with their companions, now received an equivalent, and mirth and jollity were the guests of all. Home-made wines of every description were plentiful at our table, from the pale gooseberry to the high-coloured elderberry, which the nurse, however, under whose custody it was, dealt out sparingly: who then will be surprised that as the evening

waned our noise became louder ? Foe met foe in the field of battle, and the volleys of well-directed orange-peel often worked destruction in the ranks of our opponents. About ten the bell summoned us once more to slumber, when we all agreed that

“ Twelfth-night came as other nights,
And, like them, passed away.”

By way of postscript to this chapter, I may state that the celebration of Twelfth-night has passed away from Hertford ; and it gives me regret to learn that this has been brought about through the instrumentality of a member of that Establishment, formerly a Blue-coat Boy himself. Christmas-night alone remains. May it long stand against the attack of the innovator, and the merry voice of the Blue-coat Boy be raised for centuries to come in joy and exultation on that festival !

CHAPTER XVI.

“Disasters—do the best we can—
 Will reach both great and small,
 And he must lead a charmed life,
 Who flies and leaves them all.”

OLD VERSION.

THE first year of my stay at Hertford soon slipped round, during which time I had been cured of all home-sick feelings, and became inured to the roughness of my play-fellows. I was never happier; and even at a distance of fourteen years, I pronounce the term of my noviciate at Hertford one of the most delightful periods of my existence.

The second year partook of the same routine as the first, enlivened by an occasional tea-party at the house of the matron, Mrs. Moore, who well knew the keen appetite which usually

attends the schoolboy at whatever table he may be a guest ; for she was never chary of her buns and cakes, which, on these occasions, vanished from sight in rather a mysterious manner. An occasional dinner with the nurse, whenever a present was sent from home, contributed still further to vary the routine of our first year's sojourn in the Establishment.

Fortune smiled upon me during my first two years of study, but on the commencement of the third, I was destined to experience a reverse. The ring-worm unfortunately broke out at Hertford ; and this distemper may be said to be as intimately connected with the history of that Establishment, as "the plague of London," forms an epoch in the annals of the great metropolis. It is a source of much joy, however, to know that it has long since abated in virulence, and through the progress of medical science is now rarely to be met with in the school. At the period of which I speak, one boy was found to be afflicted with the scourge: he was

sent to the infirmary, and there continued almost in solitary confinement. A few days, and another followed. In vain parents took their children home; the weeds thus plucked did not tend to purify the remainder. Groups of four and five were at length admitted each day into the sick-ward, and so general was the distemper, that the committee of governors in London thought it advisable that all the boys should undergo an examination, and for this purpose dispatched the medical staff of the town establishment to view the infected flock, and devise such means for its suppression as their experience might suggest.

The day fixed on for the inspection having arrived, we were summoned by the bell to the hall, where Mr. Colbeck, our apothecary, and Mr. Lloyd, from town, awaited our presence. The roughness which the first ward experienced on going up to the Steward's table for examination, soon told us what we had to expect: out of twenty boys who had been inspected,

at least a third were found diseased. Scissors were resorted to: the boys' hair was clipped, and to the bald parts an application of caustic was made, under which they winced again.

At length my turn came, and the fear under which I laboured, (for fear will produce disease,) certainly brought a ring-worm out on my unfortunate pate; and after sundry uncomfortable twitchings of the hair, I was ordered to stand aside.

At the close of the examination about one hundred, or twenty-five per cent. out of the whole school, were found infected with the ring-worm; we were then divided into two equal proportions, and placed in No. 1 and 2 wards, their former inmates being drafted to those wards not infected. I was placed in No. 2, under a nurse who was in every respect the reverse of Mrs. Smith. The day that saw me placed here was indeed a gloomy one; the boys with whom I associated were different from my for-

mer companions, and then the idea to be expatriated from my own soil, to be the playfellow and companion of a diseased flock, drove me almost distracted, and many days elapsed ere I could reconcile myself to the change of situation. My curly hair, on which I prided myself, was cut off without ceremony, and my head shaved. Oh! the shudder I felt on placing my hands for the first time on my poor bald pate; a thrill went through my whole frame, and I felt as weak and helpless as Sampson, when deprived of his locks by Delilah.

With my altered situation my pursuits also underwent a change. Three times a week our heads were subjected to the barber's razor; and great was the struggle to get to him who appeared the most gentle (for there were three, and sometimes four, engaged in this business) and least likely to wound us; for the shaving was done by contract, and the operation was frequently hurried over, with a scratch or cut, at our expense, which continued to smart for some time.

The barber in chief in No. 1 ward, evidently had his eyes otherwise directed than towards the head of the boy whom he was shaving, for he soon afterwards married the nurse, and as he was a respectable tradesman in the town, it is to be hoped it proved a comfortable match.

That universal panacea, brandy and salt, which, after the rapid rise of Jack's Bean-stalk, appears in the short space of a single night to have effected many radical cures, was unknown in those days. A thin covering immediately next the head, surmounted by a black velvet cap, kept us from cold, the velvet cap being a recent improvement: the cap worn prior to this, though not so heavy, resembled that in use by the London Fire Brigade, and which, I have little doubt, is a pirated edition of the original Hertford *tadd* caps. Thus, by our head-piece, we were distinguished, and avoided by the boys, as the lepers by the Jews of old; punishment being inflicted on any boy free from the disease who was seen talking to

us. As we sat gloomily in our ward, to which we were almost confined, a familiar face would sometimes peep in at the window and call on us by name, and the next minute the boy on whose shoulders he was perched would give warning that somebody was approaching, when he disappeared, and we saw not a kind friend again for many a day. We were named by our more fortunate schoolfellows, Tadds, and were continually taunted as such by the younger members of the community.

On a Sunday, when the boys had gone to church, we were allowed to take exercise in the buildings, but as soon as they reappeared, we were driven to our wards. On these occasions I would often slip over to my old residence, and there, with tears in my eyes, complain of my forlorn situation to Mrs. Smith. But appeal to her was in vain; a higher command than hers had gone forth, and it became her duty to enjoin patience and submission. I remained in this state of exile about six months. My edu-

cation during that time was far from progressing, for we did pretty well as we liked, though the Steward would now and then peep in, and catch us at fault. It was the custom when punishment was to be inflicted for us to be sent up to the Hall, and at times our black caps were to be seen there, which told the boys that some of the Tadds were about to receive retribution for their offences.

During the term of my transportation, which seems to me the most appropriate designation for the period of my stay in the infected ward, I had the misfortune to lose my former nurse, Mrs. Smith, who, having been indisposed for some time, left Hertford for change of air; but, to my sorrow and the universal regret of those entrusted to her care, never returned. Her absence then being announced as merely temporary, I bid her good-by without much sorrow, wishing her sincerely a speedy restoration to health.

CHAPTER XVII.

"Auspicious hope! in thy sweet garden grow
 Wreaths for each toil—a charm for every woe;
 Won by their sweets, in Nature's languid hour
 The way-worn pilgrim seeks thy summer bower;
 There, as the wild-bee murmurs on the wing,
 What peaceful dreams thy handmaid spirits bring!
 What viewless forms th' Æolian organs play,
 And sweep the furrow'd lines of anxious thought
 away."

CAMPBELL.

"PLEASE, Sir, may I leave off shaving?"
 was the cry that continually greeted Mr. Col-
 beck, the medical attendant, when he visited
 the doomed wards to examine the heads of the
 boys; an order from him to that effect being
 tantamount to a declaration of the cure of the
 disease, and was followed by an immediate re-
 moval to the quarantine ward.

The storm which for so long a time had

set directly against me, now abated in its fury:—

“The ocean has its ebbings—so has grief;
’Tis vent to anguish, if ’tis not relief.”

Thus the flood-gates of my sorrow were opened; and after a residence in No. 2 ward for six months, I was pronounced in a fair way of recovery, and ordered to perform the customary term of quarantine. It were vain to picture the joy that animated me as I took up my play-box, filled with chaffs and articles of clothing, and lifting it to my shoulders, turned my face for the last time on my former abode. My imagination, which, for a long time, had almost precluded hope, now revelled in joyous prospects for the future; and the blood which had been so long stagnant in my veins, diffused its genial freshness over my emancipated frame. I should soon possess the privilege of rejoining my former companions, and reposing once more in my own pleasant chamber, added to the anticipation of casting aside the

black velvet cap, the badge of the disease under which I had so long laboured.

All this was pleasant to contemplate, and almost made me beside myself; and when I retired to rest for the first time in my new dormitory, I did so, fully impressed with the beauty of the change, which had burst like the first beams of morning on the sickening gloom of night. The number of boys in the quarantine ward amounted to about twenty. A lady of the name of Hart was the nurse, and very kind indeed she was. We were as a little family, in comparison with the other wards, and though at present prohibited from mixing with the remainder of the boys, enjoyed considerable liberty. We were allowed the run of a small playground at the back of the ward, about the size of the gardens allotted to the nurses, and from the palings which separated it from the thoroughfare leading to the field, we were able to shake hands and talk with our former associates, as they passed to and fro.

Our meals were confined to ourselves, and took place in the day-room. Not being under the surveillance of the Steward, we talked and enjoyed ourselves in that moderate degree at meals which medical men consider so essential to proper digestion.

Our present dwelling having been the prison-house of many boys who had committed crimes of enormity, such as theft, or eloping from school, and who remained here until their case had been reported to the committee in London, by the Steward, we made the most of this circumstance, drawing largely on the ideal in our biographies of the several offenders. Stories of ghosts and goblins, allied to visits of invisible personages, fell from our lips when night came, and we often remained awake the greater part of that time, frightened at the creations of our own brain.

“ The Arabian Nights rehearsed in bed,
The Fairy Tales in schooltime read
By stealth, 'twixt verb and noun !

The angel form that always walked
In all my dreams, and looked and talked
Exactly like Miss Brown!"

Time passed pleasantly in the quarantine ward; yet there was a fear, a constant dread that every time we underwent examination by the apothecary, he would order us, as the judge the convicts on whom he is passing sentence, "To be taken to the place from whence we came." This having been the fate of several, made us very anxious lest a like mishap should fall to our lot.

Having been in this purgatorial state for the space of three weeks, I was pronounced cured, and ordered to return to my old ward, my hair growing as rapidly as spring cabbages, and as soft and silky to the touch as the quills of an infuriated porcupine.

On my restoration to No. 6 ward, I found my nurse, Mrs. Smith, had not yet returned from the country, and a lady of her acquaintance of the name of Baker officiated for her. Oh! how gently was the oil to nourish my hair ap-

plied by her soft hands: in comparison to the rough treatment of the nurse in No. 2 ward, as a calm to the tempest. But I was not permitted to experience this change of treatment for any lengthened period; for as Mrs. Smith remained unwell, she thought it expedient to resign her situation, and in a short time her successor arrived to take possession.

The regret of the boys at the loss of their favourite was intense. I have endeavoured in these pages to acknowledge the kindnesses which I received at the hands of Mrs. Smith, and in doing so I am sure that I echo the sentiments of all, who like myself were placed under the shadow of her wings. Mrs. Lowry was the name of my new nurse: on her arrival I was created a monitor, which duty embraced the superintendence of the boys in all matters unconnected with the school-room. I was exceedingly pleased with my elevation, and no longer retired to rest with the other boys, but

after seeing them all in bed, returned to the day-room, and there, in reading and conversation with my colleagues, remained until the bell bid us hasten to bed. There were three monitors to each ward, who during the winter months were allowed to remain up; and the lights used on these nights were defrayed at their expense, the candlestick which poverty compelled us to use being a blacking-bottle filled with sand, in which we placed our penny candle, and which answered all our purposes, equally well with the most splendid candelabrum.

Once or twice a week Mrs. Lowry permitted us to assemble in her parlour, and one of us read aloud to the others Mrs. Trimmer's History of the Robins, Dicky, Pecksy, and Flapsy, or the Parent's Assistant, by Maria Edgeworth, containing those excellent tales, so well adapted for the amusement and instruction of youth, viz., Lazy Lawrence, the White Pigeon, &c. &c. Though much pleased with these stories,

and sensible of the goodness of the nurse in allowing us to meet for their perusal, we preferred tales partaking more of romance; and the late Charles Lamb was perfectly correct when he said that such books as the *Arabian Nights' Entertainments* and other Oriental tales were sought for with peculiar avidity: this he attributed to the following cause,—an excess of society with each other, and a want of mingling with the world. But the character of a Blue-coat Boy by this delightful writer, I am sure my readers will excuse me for transferring to these pages.

“The Christ's Hospital or Blue-coat Boy has a distinctive character of his own, as far removed from the abject qualities of a common charity boy, as it is from the disgusting forwardness of a lad brought up at some other of the public schools. There is a pride in it accumulated from the circumstances which I have described as differencing him from the former; and there is a restraining modesty, from a sense

of obligation and dependence, which must ever keep his deportment from assimilating to that of the latter. His very garb, as it is antique and venerable, feeds his self-respect; as it is a badge of dependence, it restrains the natural petulance of that age from breaking out into overt acts of violence. This produces silence and a reserve before strangers, yet not that cowardly shyness which boys mewed up at home will feel: he will speak up when spoken to, but the stranger must begin the conversation with him. Within his bounds he is all fire and play, but in the streets he steals along with all the self-concentration of a young monk. He is never known to mix with other boys; they are a sort of laity to him. All this proceeds, I have no doubt, from the continual consciousness which he carries about him of the difference of his dress from that of the rest of the world; with a modest jealousy over himself, lest by over-hastily mixing with common and secular play-fellows, he should commit the dignity of his

cloth. Nor let any one laugh at this ; for considering the propensity of the multitude, and especially of the small multitude, to ridicule anything unusual in dress ; above all, when such peculiarity may be construed by malice into a mark of disparagement ; this reserve will appear to be nothing more than a wise instinct in a Blue-coat Boy. That it is neither pride nor rusticity, at least that it has none of the offensive qualities of either, a stranger may soon satisfy himself by putting a question to any of these boys ; he may be sure of an answer couched in terms of plain civility, neither loquacious nor embarrassed. Let him put the same question to a parish-boy, or to one of the trencher-caps in the — cloisters ; and the impudent reply of the one shall not fail to exasperate, any more than the certain servility and mercenary eye to reward, which he will meet with in the other, can fail to depress and sadden him. The Christ's Hospital boy is a religious character. His school is eminently a

religious foundation. It has its peculiar prayers, its services at set times, its graces, hymns, and anthems following each other in an almost monastic closeness of succession. This religious character in him is not always untinged with superstition. That is not wonderful, when we consider the thousand tales and traditions which must circulate with undisturbed credulity among so many boys, that have so few checks to their belief from any intercourse with the world at large—upon whom their equals in age must work so much, their elders so little. With this leaning towards an over-belief in matters of religion, which will soon correct itself when he comes out into society, may be classed a turn for romance above most other boys."

The author, after alluding to the thirst displayed for books of fiction, and others of a still wilder class, mentions a circumstance as an illustration of the crude ideas they implant in the minds of the scholar, and which I give in his own words:—

"I remember, during my stay at Christ's Hospital, some half-dozen boys setting off from school, without map, card, or compass, on a serious expedition to find out Philip Quarll's Island."

This character of a Blue-coat Boy applies more particularly to those on the foundation in London. The idea of starting off on such an expedition as the one just mentioned, must have taken place on a holiday or leave-day; the boys at Hertford being prohibited to venture outside of the gates without the escort of the nurse or beadle: the onus of this piece of simplicity must therefore rest upon the children of a larger growth, viz., their brethren in town. Hertford not being mentioned in the writings of the essayist of Elia, we may safely conclude that he spent no portion of his school-days at this delightful nursery.

The name of Charles Lamb possesses a kind of fascination with every Blue, among whom, while life remains, his memory will

be cherished, and though he is no longer with us, his writings still remain to us, sweet as the lute of Orpheus,

“ Who made the lofty trees,
And the mountain-tops that freeze,
Bow their heads when he did sing.”

CHAPTER XVIII.

"The school's lone porch, with rev'rend mosses grey,
 Just tells the pensive pilgrim where it lay.
 Up springs, at every step, to claim a tear,
 Some little friendship formed and cherished here;
 And not the lightest leaf but trembling teems
 With golden visions and romantic dreams!
 And hence this spot gives back the joys of youth,
 Warm as the life, and with the mirror's truth."

ROGERS.

IN the middle of the year 1827, the Rev. F. W. Franklin resigned the situation of Grammar-Master, and was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Cotton. The first endeavours of the new master were meritorious. Mr. Franklin had been contented to let the boys remain in precisely the same state in which he received them from his predecessor: the energies of Mr. Cotton were directed to arouse them from the lethargy in which they had been so long suffered to remain,

and in the trifling space of one year a change was visible for the better throughout the Grammar-School. The first class, instead of being confined to the getting off the Latin Grammar by heart, were led gradually to become conversant with the minor Latin classics. The Latin Delectus was succeeded by Eutropius, and the Greek Grammar for the first time now made its appearance: thus at the termination of a year, when I was sent to London, I was placed in the third class of the under school, instead of the fifth and last, where the boys who had left Hertford for town previously to Mr. Franklin's departure still lingered. The young blood of Mr. Cotton frequently required a stimulus to give it due circulation, and I am sorry to say he exhibited great severity in his floggings, frequently using in succession two or three rods, which he wore to the stump, upon the unfortunate sufferer. Better had it been for the fair fame of Mr. Cotton, had he been compelled to purchase his own rods, that he might have ex-

perienced the feelings of the far-famed Dr. Syntax, who was obliged to relinquish flagellation from motives of prudence:—

“E'en birch, the pedant master's boast,
Was so increased in price and cost,
That oft, prudentially beguiled
To spare the rod, he spoiled the child.”

He was also very fond of having his favourites, for whom a pat of the cheek was sufficient punishment, while a dozen stripes would hardly suffice for those who did not find favour in his sight. It is, however, but justice to add, his favourites were boys noted in the school for their intelligence and good conduct. But Mr. Cotton's reign was of brief duration, for on being presented to a living by the Governors he resigned his situation at Hertford, and was succeeded by the present master, the Rev. Nathaniel Keymer, whose mild rule during the time he was Grecian, removes from my mind any fear of a return to such severe discipline.

I had now become complete master of the Latin Grammar, could construe with ease the Latin

Delectus, and apply the rules of Syntax with great facility, giving as cogent reasons for the ablative case being absolute, as any barrister in support of a rule Nisi, in Westminster Hall. The Psalms of David I knew by heart, and the predilection I have since entertained for doggerel verse, arose from my intimate acquaintance during boyhood with the inimitable performances of Messrs. Sternhold and Hopkins ! I was conversant with Eutropius ; could tell the number of years each of the seven Roman kings bore rule, and was *au fait* at the creation of a democratic form of government by the wrongs of Lucretia, the dictatorship of Cincinnatus, the Elephants of Pyrrhus, the integrity of Fabricius, the defeat of Pompey, the assassination of his conqueror, and the termination of the republic by the foundation of the Roman Empire, in the person of Augustus, &c. &c. &c. Added to this catalogue of my proficiencies, I could make strokes without the fear of a rap on my knuckles, and had progressed

from pot-hooks and hangers to a good bold round-hand, which to a school-boy is so desirable, as all his letters home are written in this style. My knowledge of English History was far from insignificant; I had read and reflected with Sturm; I could cast up Compound Addition, and last, though not to me the most unimportant feature, I could earn my halfpenny a fortnight in making pens for the usher; who, among my readers, will be surprised at the sequel to this flourish?

One fine summer's day, when I would rather have been at play than at school, Mr. Ludlow, as was his custom, entered the Grammar-school, and seating himself by the side of Mr. Cotton at his desk, began with him to select from the first class such boys as were considered fit to be removed to London. After the choice of a certain number from the head class, the list is filled up by those boys who have attained the age of twelve; none being allowed to remain at Hertford after that period.

I was one of the elect, and received the announcement with every demonstration of joy.

There were trials, however, to be surmounted ere I could make sure of my removal, having experienced even in those early days the truth of the old adage, "there is many a slip between cup and lip." The day after the election we were summoned to the Hall, where we were examined by the apothecary: and having had some little experience that these proceedings did not always pass off as one might wish, I became a little timid, and was of course in perfect ecstasy when the trial was favourably terminated.

The day preceding my departure for London was devoted to making all necessary arrangements. I made as many bequests as if about journeying to my long home. Immediately it becomes known that a boy is to be drafted to London, his companions allow him no peace until he has willed away the little property he possesses. These preliminaries concluded, the evening passed away in washings

and scrubbings, and I looked forward anxiously for the morrow, which was to terminate my stay at Hertford, and advance me to the companionship of former playfellows in London. I arose at six o'clock when morning came, and the coach which conveyed us to town leaving Hertford at eight, we took our breakfast in the little kitchen of the nurse. Decked with our best girdles, which is a distinguishing mark of a boy proceeding to London, and with cap in hand, we repaired, as soon as our meal was finished, to the different schools, to take a final leave of our former masters. The sensation created on our entrance was extreme, and in passing to different parts of the school, a forest of hands was stretched out, eager to salute us. Good bye! Good-bye! resounded on all sides. It was not the low despairing whisper of farewell that greeted us on all sides, but a hearty expression of concern for our future welfare, added to the consciousness that a short period only would intervene ere we met again.

Thus terminated my stay at Hertford, and with it an important act in the drama of my existence. I had grown in stature from three feet nothing, to four feet something, and had been sheltered within its friendly walls upwards of three years. With this addition to my height, my intellects kept pace, and I began to feel my growing importance. Thus, when safely perched on the roof of the coach, I made the following resolution: that having in my own estimation become a man, I would for the future eschew childish things.

“ And now, farewell—Time unrevoked has seen
His wonted course, yet what I wished is done.
By contemplation's help, not sought in vain,
I seem to have lived my childhood o'er again;
To have renewed *the pleasant scenes of youth,*
Knit with the ties of friendship and of truth
And, while the wings of Fancy still are free,
And I can view this mimic show of thee,
Time has but half succeeded in his theft—
Thyself removed, thy power to soothe me left.”

THE END.



AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING A
LIST OF THE OFFICERS AND SERVANTS,
BELONGING TO
Christ's Hospital, Hertford :
THE DUTIES OF EACH COPIED FROM THE
PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS,
AND CORRECTED TO DECEMBER, 1841.



APPENDIX.

SURGEON-APOTHECARY.

Mr. R. D. J. Evans.

DUTIES.—To reside in or near the Hospital; to visit the patients in the Infirmary at least twice a day, and to prescribe and dispense medicines for them: to visit each ward in the Hospital monthly; also to visit and prepare medicines for the resident officers, their families, and servants.

GRAMMAR-MASTERS.

Rev. N. Keymer, M. A. and Rev. W. Coleman, M. A.

DUTIES.—To prepare the boys for the Grammar-School in London, by instructing them in grammar and the rudiments of Latin and Greek; in the Catechism, and in the knowledge of the Christian Religion, according to the principles of the Established Church.

ASSISTANT MASTER IN THE GRAMMAR-SCHOOL.

Mr. Charles Bowra.

DUTIES.—To assist the senior Master in the instruction of the boys.

WRITING AND READING-MASTER.

Mr. J. T. Hannum.

DUTIES.—To instruct the boys in Reading and Spelling, Writing and Arithmetic, and to officiate for the Steward in case of illness.

ASSISTANTS TO THE WRITING-MASTER.

Mr. Irvine and Mr. Goldsmith.

DUTIES.—To assist in the tuition of the boys.

USHERS IN THE WRITING-SCHOOL.

Messrs. L. M. Stewart and I. S. Chadd.

STEWARD.

Mr. George Ludlow.

DUTIES.—To attend the children during their meals, and to church on Sundays ; to see that they

behave themselves properly at all times ; to prevent them from going beyond the boundaries, and absenting themselves from the Hospital ; to countenance and support the nurses, and other servants of the Establishment in the performance of their several duties ; to receive and deliver all provisions and necessaries for the use of the Hospital ; to keep an account thereof, and to examine and sign the tradesmen's bills for the same, and to cause the bell to be rung at the stated times for the children to rise and go to bed, to school and their meals.

MATRON.

Mrs. Moore.

DUTIES.—To the Matron is committed the oversight of all the nurses and children, to see the children's linen properly washed, that the nurses keep them clean in their persons and apparel, and have a constant and careful eye upon their behaviour in their wards, and in the hall ; to attend the children in the hall at dinner and supper, and to see that they wear no other apparel than what is provided by the house ; to examine the children's bedding, and all other things belonging to them monthly, that nothing be embezzled or destroyed ; to visit each ward at night, at least once a week, to see the provisions weighed, and that they are good and

wholesome, and well dressed, and suitably apportioned to them; to attend the boys at church on Sundays, and see the nurses attend there with their children.

BEADLE.

Mr. Allen.

DUTIES.—To attend in the different parts of the buildings, for the preservation of good order, and to prevent the entrance of beggars and improper persons; to sweep and keep clean the different parts of the Hospital; to light the fires in the hall, schools, and Steward's Office; to assist the porter in providing coals for the kitchen, wards, and schools; to attend the children to church and those whom the Steward may allow to walk out; to ring the bell at a quarter before ten every night, to give notice to strangers within the Hospital to depart; and not to be absent without permission from the Steward.

PORTER.

Mr. Crossman.

DUTIES.—To open the gates in the morning, and shut them in the evening; to attend in the different parts of the buildings constantly for the preservation of order amongst the children, and to prevent the entrance of beggars, vagrants, and

loiterers; to keep the playgrounds swept and clean; to accompany the children who have permission from the Steward to walk out, and to attend them to church; to help to weigh the butter and cheese, soap, &c., and not to absent himself from the Hospital, without the permission of the Steward.

BOYS' NURSES.

No. of Ward.	Nurse's Name.	No. of Ward.	Nurse's Name.
1,	Mrs. Quant.	7,	Mrs. Thornton.
2,	Mrs. Stoddard.	8,	Mrs. Meredith.
3,	Mrs. Parry.	9, or,	Supernumerary
4,	Mrs. Holdup.		Ward,
5,	Mrs. Andrews.		Mrs. Thompson.
6,	Mrs. Lowry.		

DUTIES.—The Nurses in their several wards have the sole management and direction of the children under their care in the absence of the Steward and Matron, behaving kindly to them, avoiding all railings, scolding, and immorality; keeping them clean and decent in their persons; to be accountable for their bedding, furniture, and wearing apparel, and to keep the same clean and properly mended; to keep their wards sweet and clean, and not to harbour any other person therein than the children of the house, except their servants; and to attend in the hall at meal times, and distribute the

provisions equally among the children; also to attend church morning and afternoon.

INFIRMARY NURSE.

Mrs. Green.

DUTIES.—To take care of the weak, sick, lame, and diseased children; in her own person to administer to them all medicines prescribed by the apothecary, as well as to apply all poultices and dressings; to keep the Infirmary clean and in good order, as well as all linen, bedding, and clothes entrusted to her care; to keep a list of the children under her care, with the times of their entering and leaving the sick ward.

COOK.

Mrs. Guy.

DUTIES.—To dress the meat and all other provisions which she shall receive from the Steward for the children, wholesomely and cleanly; to keep an account of such meat in a book, and to keep the kitchen, the coppers, and all the vessels used in preparing the children's food perfectly clean.

COBBLER.

Thomas Rayner.

DUTIES.—To mend the children's shoes, and to assist the Steward in delivering the new shoes, and to observe that they are properly made, and according to sample.

PRAYERS

APPOINTED

For the use of the Children of Christ's Hospital,

BY THE RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD,

HENRY COMPTON,

LATE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

MORNING PRAYERS.

O God, my God, early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth after thee. O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord, Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men.—
Amen.

Let us Pray,

O God of Mercy and Father of all comfort, who of thy merciful goodness hast brought us to the beginning of this day, We, thine unworthy children, beg that the day-spring from on high may now and ever visit and shine upon us; and that pardoning our offences, and continuing to be good unto us, thou wouldst dispose us to a better conformity to thy Laws, and obedience to thy Commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Redeemer.
—Amen.

Remember not, Lord, the sins of our youth nor the follies of our childhood ; but consider whereof we are made, and from what we are fallen by the transgression of our first parents, and be merciful unto us. O teach us betimes to number our days, that we may apply our hearts early unto wisdom, for Jesus Christ his sake.—Amen.

Let thy blessings, O Lord, descend abundantly upon the persons and families of all our benefactors ; accept their offerings, and be thou their exceeding great reward. Bless our Governors, and forget not their labour of love, which they have undergone for thy Name's sake ; neither suffer thou us to be ungrateful to thee or them. We likewise beg of thee to preserve us in perpetual safety, for the sake of our only Saviour ; in whose Holy Name and words we continue to pray :

Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.

NOON PRAYER.

Let us Pray,

O Father of light, shine upon us with the fulness of thy Grace. Do away our offences ; clothe us with humility, and fill us with thy Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to do such good works, as thou hast ordained us to walk in. Look down in com-

passion upon thy poor children ; protect our tender age from the violence of temptation ; strengthen us by thine almighty power, and as we grow in years, so make us grow in Grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

EVENING PRAYERS.

Let us Pray,

O Father of Mercies, look upon us of thy great goodness : we have sinned against thee, and are no more worthy to be called thy children. The wantonness and folly of our youth have prevailed upon us ; the frailty and stubbornness of our depraved nature have made us to err. O forgive us our sins. We come to thee heavy laden with the weight of this day's transgressions ; refresh our drooping spirits, and grant us thy grace so to walk before thee for the future, that it may bring forth fruit meet for repentance, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

Water, we beseech thee, with the heavenly dew of thy blessing, Christ's Holy Church, particularly this portion of it, in which we live ; guide, strengthen and protect it. Bless our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, and all the Royal Family, and all that are in authority under her. Bless this city and every member of it, particularly this foun-

dation, with all that move in it, or do good unto it. And this we beg for Christ his sake.—Amen.

We praise thee for our founders and benefactors, and for the comfort thou hast afforded us by their means, both to soul and body. Bless, and greatly increase their substance who have satisfied the poor with bread; let their families be prosperous on earth, and a sure and full reward be given them of the Lord at the resurrection of the just. Grant that we, with thankful hearts for all thy mercies, may cheerfully do thy will, through Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the Holy Ghost, world without end.—Amen.

Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.

GRACE BEFORE MEAT.

Give us thankful hearts, O Lord God, for the table which thou hast spread before us. Bless thy good creatures to our use, and us to thy service, for Jesus Christ, his sake.—Amen.

GRACE AFTER MEAT.

Blessed Lord, we yield thee hearty praise and thanksgiving for our founders and benefactors, by whose charitable benevolence thou hast refreshed

our bodies at this time. So season and refresh our souls with thy heavenly Spirit, that we may live to thy honour and glory. Protect thy church, the Queen, and all the Royal Family, and preserve us in peace and truth, through Christ our Saviour.—Amen.

A PRAYER TO BE SAID BY THE CHILDREN AT
THEIR ENTRANCE INTO CHURCH.

Almighty God, we beseech thee, be pleased to fill our minds with such awful apprehensions of thy glorious majesty, as may excite and stir up in us that reverence and attention which becomes thy presence, and enable us to demean ourselves so acceptably before thee, that thou mayest vouchsafe us thine abundant grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

PRAYERS TO BE SAID BY THE CHILDREN IN
THE SEVERAL WARDS AT NIGHT, GOING TO
BED.

Lord, let the rest we are going to mind us of the hour of death; and now that we are going to lie down, let us consider that it may be we shall rise up no more. We do earnestly therefore repent us of our sins, and are heartily sorry for our misdoings

and we beseech thee, give us grace so to be sensible of all our errors, for the time to come, that the remembrance of them may be a warning to us, to continue steadfast in our obedience, and ever to walk in newness of life, to the glory of thy Holy Name, through Christ our Lord.—Amen.

All honour and praise be given to thee, O Lord God Almighty, for the life thou hast raised us to by thy free grace, and for the hopes of glory; for the free course of thy gospel among us, and for the ministers of thy Holy Word and Sacraments. Give us grace, we pray thee, so to apply these means which thou hast afforded us, that they may become salvation to us, through our blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ.—Amen.

Preserve us, O merciful God, from all evil dreams, from all affrighting and distracting fancies, from the horrors of the night, and the works of darkness. Give us quiet and composed thoughts, and such rest in thee, that we may sleep under the covering of thy wings, and awake in thy favour, through Him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, world without end.—Amen.

Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.

At Hertford, in addition to the foregoing prayers, was added that of St. Chrysostom, "Almighty God

who hast given us grace, at this time with one accord," &c., with the benediction of St. Paul to the Corinthians, "The grace of our Lord," &c. These formed the entire prayers used at Hertford, but in London a different form of prayer was substituted on Sunday Evenings, as follows :—

EVENING PRAYERS FOR SUNDAYS.

Pardon us, we beseech thee, O most gracious God and Saviour, we are not worthy of thy least mercies. We forget the hand that feeds us, and the paps which gave us suck. We were hungry and thou hast fed us, we were naked and thou hast clothed us, and hast remembered us in our low estate, though we have forgotten thee. But thy property is always to have mercy ; spare us, therefore, O good Lord, according to thy great loving-kindness. Forgive us all that is past ; and renew a right spirit within us, for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, his sake.—Amen.

Teach us, O Lord, to remember thee, our Creator, in the days of our youth, and to exercise ourselves in thy statutes day and night. Stablish us so with thy free Spirit, that we may live to thy glory, and die in thy favour, through Christ our Lord.—Amen.

Gracious God, we pray that thy mercy may be extended to the whole world, that thy ways may be

known upon the earth, thy saving health unto all nations. Especially, we implore thy blessing upon all those that are of the household of faith, that every one that names the Name of Christ may depart from all iniquity.—Amen.

We pray thee to preserve the Church of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain and Ireland* in peace and truth. Bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria, Adelaide, Queen Dowager, the Prince Albert, and all the Royal Family; the Lords and others of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council; all the Nobility, Judges, Magistrates, Gentry, and Commonalty of this Land; and pour a double portion of thy Spirit upon those who are over us in the Lord; whether Bishops, Priests, or Deacons, that, both by their lives and doctrine, we may be led in the right way.—Amen.

Bless, we beseech thee, all Bodies Politic, especially this Great City. Bless her in her Magistrates, the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen, Sheriffs, and all others that bear rule. Bless all her inhabitants, and particularly those houses which are dedicated to pious and charitable uses; above all, this Religious, Royal, and Ancient Foundation of *Christ's Hospital*, the President, Treasurer, and all the Governors hereunto belonging; the Masters, and all those to whom the care of us poor children is committed. Prosper their endeavours, and crown their labour with eternal life.—Amen.

We praise thee for our Founders and Benefactors, and the refreshments thou hast afforded us by their means, beseeching thee to pour down thine abundant blessings upon the houses of those thy servants, that they may continue before thee for ever; and that all who see them, may acknowledge that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed. Give us grateful hearts, so to improve all thy mercies, that we may live to thy glory, and our own salvation, through our Lord and only Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name and words we continue praying,

Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION
OF
THE TOWN OF HERTFORD.

HERTFORD, or **Hartford**, a borough, and the capital of Hertfordshire, is situated in a low valley, watered by the River Lea, over which is a neat stone bridge. As you enter the town you have a pleasant view of it in perspective. The date of the foundation of Hertford is uncertain. At the time of the Domesday Survey, the town and lands were divided between the Conqueror and eight of his followers. By the census of 1841, the population was 7,011, and the number of inhabited houses, 996. Like most old towns it is irregularly laid out; the streets, however, which are formed in the shape of the letter Y, are well paved, and lighted with gas.

The general appearance of Hertford indicates prosperity and improvement. It has two parish churches: All Saints, a large cross church, with a square tower, and spire at its western end, and St. Andrews, a smaller edifice.

There are some remains of antiquity here, among

which are the ruins of an ancient castle, of which however little now remains. A handsome brick edifice, built on the site of the castle, probably in the time of James I., or Charles I., though some parts bear the appearance of an older date, was occupied for a time by the East India College, but it is now used as a preparatory school to the college at Haileybury, whither the parent establishment was eventually removed. Its owner is the Marquis of Salisbury, who lets it for its present purpose.

Hertford is a place of considerable interest to the antiquary. Sir Henry Chauncy would have fixed here the *Durocibrivæ** of Antoninus, which is now more commonly fixed at Maiden Bower, near Dunstable.† In the year A. D. 673, a national ecclesiastical commission was held at Hertford; and in 905, Edward the Elder built the castle, and rebuilt the town, which had probably been destroyed by the Danes.

In the civil war during the unhappy reign of the feeble John, the castle was taken after a brave defence by the Dauphin Louis, who had been invited by the discontented barons to succeed that contemptible monarch on the throne of these realms.

* A Roman Station so called.

† See article *Hertford*, Penny Cyclopaedia.

It subsequently became the property of the crown, and was granted in succession to John of Gaunt, together with the Earldom of Hertford, and to the Queens of the fourth, fifth, and sixth Henry. John II., King of France, and David King of Scotland, spent part of their captivity here during the reign of Edward III. Queen Elizabeth occasionally resided and held her court in this castle.


The corporation of Hertford consists of four aldermen, and twelve councillors. It has a commission of the peace, and there are quarter sessions held here for the borough and assizes, and sessions for the county. The county Jail and House of Correction are situated on the high-road to London, at a short distance from the town. The Town-hall stands at the western extremity of the principal street. The Shire-hall is over the corn and general market. A great deal of malting is done here, and there are many corn-mills, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Lea; no manufacture, however, is carried on at Hertford. The market is held on Saturday, and is one of the largest in the kingdom. There are four yearly fairs, chiefly for cattle.

The living of All Saints is a vicarage, united with that of Saint John, of the yearly value of two hundred and ninety pounds, in addition to a residence; that of St. Andrew (with which are incorporated St. Mary and St. Nicholas) is a rectory of the value of two hundred and seventy-one pounds per annum,

with house attached. Both livings are in the deanery of Hertford, and the diocese of Lincoln. There are also several dissenting places of worship.

Hertford stands proudly forward in its desire to cultivate the minds of the young, and to afford to all classes the inestimable blessings derived from a religious education. At a recent period the town boasted of the following schools, in addition to the branch school of Christ's Hospital: viz. a free grammar-school, with thirty-three day-scholars on the foundation, and twenty-four boarders—the Green-coat charity-school with fifty boys—two national schools, with one hundred and sixty-one boys, and forty-five girls—another charity-school with forty-five girls—an infant-school, with about twenty children, and eleven other day or boarding and day schools, with three hundred and twenty-nine children; one evening-school, with forty girls, and three Sunday-schools, with one hundred and ninety-six children. This fact speaks volumes in favour of a population not much exceeding seven thousand, and affords a striking contrast to the state of our manufacturing districts, where all is, comparatively speaking, chaos and desolation.

The walks around Hertford are of the most delightful description, abounding in all the beauties of nature. Fertile fields and smiling valleys greet the pedestrian, while the country abounds with the seats of



noblemen and gentry, of which the following are the principal—Balls, the seat of Captain Townshend, R. N. ; Brickendonbury, of George Gould Morgan, Esq., and Bayfordbury, the residence of William Robert Baker, Esq. In addition to these may be added Ware Park, the seat of — Venour, Esq., which is within an hour's walk of the town. Pansanger-house, the seat of Earl Cowper; Hatfield, the princely mansion of the Marquis of Salisbury, together with Brocket-hall, the seat of the late Premier, are within the compass of a morning's ride.

The visit of our Gracious Queen to Pansanger-house, during the summer of 1841, will ever be remembered with delight by the inhabitants of Hertford and its vicinity, from the condescension shown by our beloved Sovereign and her illustrious consort, to all classes of her faithful subjects. The Address from the Corporation of Hertford on this occasion, felicitous in its comparison of the royal Lady, with good Queen Bess, with whom the county of Hertford stands intimately associated, was only surpassed by her Majesty's gracious reply, and fervent expressions of hope, "that the similarity thus drawn might be justified by the event."

The borough of Hertford returns two members to parliament, and has acquired a little note from its electioneering proceedings. This privilege was first obtained during the reign of Edward I., and continued until the fiftieth year of Edward the

Third's reign, when the town was relieved from the burden on the plea of poverty, and the burgesses did not regain the privilege till the twenty-second of James I.

Excellent accommodation is afforded the visitor to Hertford. The principal inns are the Salisbury, and Dimsdale Arms, (late the Half-moon) the Bull, &c. &c., all of which are of a superior description. Coaches leave for and arrive from London twice during the day, in addition to which one or two of the long stages pass through and enliven the town.

A railroad is in course of construction from London to Cambridge, which passes near Hertford, and little doubt remains that ere long the town and its surrounding beauties will be the favourite resort of those inhabitants of our great metropolis, who desire for a time to leave the cares of business to seek the refreshing charms of the picturesque.

THE
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF BLUES.

IN the month of June, 1824, certain gentlemen who had been educated in Christ's Hospital convened a meeting, for the purpose of taking such measures as might appear best calculated to afford relief to their more necessitous brethren ; and a series of resolutions were accordingly adopted as the basis of the regulations of a society to be forthwith established, under the appropriate designation of "the Benevolent Society of Blues." The declared objects of the society were, "to grant annual pensions or weekly allowances to the aged and infirm ; to afford temporary relief to distressed parties ; to grant small loans, to be returned by fixed instalments ; and to relieve the distressed widows and orphans of Blues, as the funds of the Society might allow ;" at the same time it was cautiously provided "That no relief be granted to any persons (except to Blues, who shall have subscribed to the funds of the Society, and who shall have come to distress by some unforeseen calamity, subsequently

to their having become subscribers,) until the funds shall amount to £1000. This sum was realized in September, 1827, from which period to the present time, the relief imparted to unfortunate Blues has kept pace with the advances of the Society, while the number of pensioners has been increased with the increasing interest of the stock.

In dispensing relief, the directors are mainly guided by the character and peculiar situation of the applicants ; to the intent that the assistance afforded may be the means, as far as possible, of restoring them to the station in life, from which, by misfortune, they had fallen, or of upholding them in that condition which may secure the most comfortable maintenance for themselves and their families. Aided by the liberal contributions, not only of Blues, but of many of the Governors, and others who feel an interest in the welfare of Christ's Hospital, the society have been enabled up to the present period to fund £5,050, and it is devoutly to be wished, that, as the good work in which they are engaged becomes more extensively known, not a Blue, who has the means, will withhold his mite from so excellent an Institution.

That misfortune may befall us, in whatever station we may be placed, the every-day occurrences of life plainly prove: hence it becomes the duty of every Blue, now basking in the sunshine of fortune, to contribute cheerfully his mite to this fund for the relief of his indigent brethren—a fund, numbering among

its contributors men of every station in society, who hail the friendly walls of Christ's Hospital as their Alma Mater, and who take pleasure in the growth and expansion of every plant that has been reared within its hallowed precincts, confirming by their generous sympathy, those words of solace, "The bruised reed shall not be broken."

The Society is supported by donations, and by annual subscriptions of half-a-guinea and upwards, from all persons friendly to the cause, which will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, John Smith, Esq., 49, Long Acre; the Secretary, Mr. T. R. Sidebotham, 14, College Street, Islington: and the Collector, Mr. Francis Jesse, South-sea House, Threadneedle-street.

NAMES OF THE GOVERNORS OF CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

It has been thought inadvisable to publish a List of the Names of the Governors of Christ's Hospital, in this Appendix, in consequence of the addition to their number, each succeeding year, which, in the course of a few months would render this portion of the work incomplete. Printed lists with the name

and residence of each Governor reduced in price from one guinea to half-a-crown, may be obtained at the counting-house of the Hospital, which is open every day from nine till four o'clock.

THE END.

HARVEY AND DARTON'S PUBLICATIONS,

Chiefly for Young People.

HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

Fourth Edition, revised and enlarged,
HISTORICAL PRINTS.
REPRESENTING SOME OF THE MOST MEMORABLE EVENTS IN
ENGLISH HISTORY,

IN WHICH THE COSTUMES OF THE TIMES ARE CAREFULLY PRESERVED;
WITH DESCRIPTIONS,

BY EMILY TAYLOR,
Author of "Tales of the Saxons." &c.
Foolscap 8vo. cloth, gilt edges. Price 6s.

A NEW EDITION.

ENGLISH STORIES OF THE OLDEN TIME.
BY MARIA HACK.

2 vols. 12mo. cloth lettered. With Vignettes by HARVEY. Price 12s.

"A popular History of England, from Alfred to Elizabeth, adapted to the capacities of young persons. The matter is unexceptionable, and embodies a good deal of information, valuable and interesting to juvenile readers. Certain defects of manner are counterbalanced by the dispassionate and just estimate of the characters of the persons, and the causes and influence of events."—*Spectator*.

GRECIAN STORIES.

BY MARIA HACK.

With Thirty-eight fine Illustrations by GILBERT, engraved by WRIGHT and FOLKARD. 12mo. cloth lettered. Price 8s.

"I find that men as high as trees will write
Dialogue wise, yet no man doth them alight
For writing so."—BUNYAN.

"These historical narratives are composed on the popular plan of the entertaining and instructive stories of the authoress, relating to England. They will be valuable, especially to the non-classical, as an accurate picture of Greece, its annals, and its great men."—*Tait's Mag.*

TALES OF THE GREAT AND BRAVE.

BY MISS M. FRASER TYTLER.

CONTAINING MEMOIRS OF
THE BLACK PRINCE—WALLACE—BRUCE—JOAN OF ARC—
RICHARD CŒUR DE LION—PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART
—NELSON, AND NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE.

With a coloured Frontispiece. Foolscap 8vo. cloth lettered. Price 5s.
"A charming book, dedicated to a boy 'in anticipation of his fifth birth-day, to whom it must carry a lively interest, as well as to all boys of a maturer age.'"
Hereford Times.

**NAOMI;
OR, THE LAST DAYS OF JERUSALEM.**

BY MRS. J. B. WEBB.

Foolscap, 8vo. cloth lettered. Price 7s. 6d.

**THE DUKES OF NORMANDY,
FROM THE TIME OF ROLLO, TO THE EXPULSION OF KING JOHN
BY PHILIP AUGUSTUS OF FRANCE.
BY JONATHAN DUNCAN, ESQ. B. A.**

Author of "The Religions of Profane Antiquity."

12mo. cloth lettered. Price 6s.

"The author has, in this elegant little volume, supplied a deficiency in the historical literature of England. Great care has been taken in selecting from the best authorities—the style expresses the historian's nervous anxiety to record nothing but the facts on which he himself relies, after due consideration—and he is throughout clear, instructive, and concise. The author deserves the highest praises for what he has accomplished—the sample is so good that we only wish we had more of it."—*Staffordshire Examiner.*

Historical Tales, by Emily Taylor.

Foolscap 8vo. Cloth gilt.

**TALES OF THE SAXONS:—
HACO THE GOOD,—HEREWARD THE SAXON,—AND
THE FORESTER'S DAUGHTER.**

Price 5s.

**TALES OF THE ENGLISH:—
THE KNEVETS—A TALE OF THE REFORMATION.**

Price 4s. 6d.

**THE REVOCATION
OF THE EDICT OF NANTES;
CONTAINING MEMOIRS OF
SOME OF THE SUFFERERS, DURING THE PERSECUTIONS
CONSEQUENT ON THAT EVENT.**

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE MINSTRELSY OF THE WOODS," &c.

Foolscap 8vo. cloth lettered. Price 4s.

**A MEMOIR
OF
EDWARD FOSTER BRADY,
LATE SUPERINTENDENT OF CROYDON SCHOOL.
CONSISTING CHIEFLY OF EXTRACTS FROM HIS LETTERS AND JOURNAL.**

Foolscap 8vo. cloth lettered. Price 2s. 6d.

**STORIES FROM ROMAN HISTORY.
BY A LADY.**

With Illustrations. Price 4s. cloth lettered.

ALLISON'S GUIDE TO ENGLISH HISTORY.

18mo. cloth lettered, 3s.

A N C I E N T H I S T O R Y.
FROM THE EARLIEST RECORDS TO THE TIME OF XERXES,
FORMING AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
HISTORIES OF GREECE AND ROME IN COMMON USE.

BY MRS. M. PERCIVAL.

With Plates, 12mo. cloth lettered. Price 4s.

F A C T S A N D F E E L I N G S,
ILLUSTRATIVE OF
I N T E R I O R R E L I G I O N ;
ACCOMPANIED BY
MEMORIALS OF MADAME GUYON, FENELON, AND OTHER
SPIRITUAL PERSONS,

WITH EXTRACTS FROM THEIR WORKS.

BY MARY ANN KELTY.

Foolscap 8vo. cloth lettered. Price 4s.

E A R L Y D A Y S
I N T H E S O C I E T Y O F F R I E N D S.

BY M. A. KELTY.

12mo. cloth. Price 7s. 6d.

"We have rarely looked into a contribution to the Library of Dissent, more qualified by its earnestness, and by the absence of all that is offensive, to meet with acceptance among the orthodox—nay more, to penetrate those large masses of the reading world who take no particular *is*m under their protection, and can only be interested by details illustrating the feelings and characteristics common to humanity. Mary Anne Kelty's book may, we think, be perused with interest, as a record of the early struggles of a body of conscientious men, apart from the peculiar doctrines it is intended to enforce and illustrate."—*Athenæum*.

N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y.

C H A R L I E ' S D I S C O V E R I E S ;
OR,
A G O O D U S E F O R E Y E S A N D E A R S.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE OLD OAK CHEST," "WALTER O'NIEL," &c.

WITH MANY CUTS, BY T. WILLIAMS.

16mo. Cloth. Gilt edges. Price 4s. 6d.

"Charlie's Discoveries, being set forth in a lively and attractive manner, and illustrated with beautiful wood-cuts, are calculated to make more juvenile discoveries of the wonders that are everywhere about us, though but little known."—*Spectator*.

T H E B O Y A N D T H E B I R D S.

BY EMILY TAYLOR.

WITH SIXTEEN FINE WOOD-CUTS, FROM LANDSEER'S DESIGNS.

16mo. Gilt edges. Price 3s. 6d.

"A delightful book for children. The birds tell of their habits to a little inquiring boy, who goes peeping into their nests and watching their doings; and a very pleasant way they have of talking, sure to engage the young reader's attention. The designs are pretty, and nicely cut on wood."—*Spectator*.

T H E M I N S T R E L S Y O F T H E W O O D S.

SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE

MOST INTERESTING BRITISH BIRDS.

With Plates, 12mo. cloth lettered, Price 6s.; or with coloured Plates, and gilt edges, Price 9s.

BINGLEY'S ANIMATED NATURE.

With Plates by HOWITT. 12mo. half-bound. Price 7s.

**GEOLOGICAL SKETCHES,
AND
GLIMPSSES OF THE ANCIENT EARTH.**

BY MARIA HACK.

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE PLATES AND MAPS.

Third Edition. 12mo. cloth lettered. Price 9s.

"A compendium of the most striking facts of Geology, thrown into the form of dialogue, adapted to the comprehension of the young, but not unfitted for elder readers. Of its merit, 'third edition' is sufficient proof."—*Spectator*.

**MORNING WALKS;
OR,
STEPS TO THE STUDY OF MINERALOGY.**

With Plates, 12mo. cloth lettered. Price 6s.

"Of the value of this little volume we cannot speak too highly, and we would recommend its perusal to every class of our readers, who, in a simple form, wish for an introduction to this delightful science. It is written in so simple a form that parents who wish to instruct their children in Mineralogy, cannot secure the rudiments of them better than by 'Morning Walks.'"—*Staffordshire Examiner*.

RUDIMENTS OF MINERALOGY.

BY M. A. VENNING.

With Plates, 12mo. cloth lettered. Price 4s. 6d.

By the same Author.

RUDIMENTS OF CONCHOLOGY.

With Plates, 12mo. cloth lettered, Price 3s. 6d.; or with coloured Plates,
Price 5s.

**INSTINCT DISPLAYED
IN THE ANIMAL CREATION.**

A NEW AND REVISED EDITION.

WITH MANY ADDITIONS TO THE ORIGINAL WORK OF PRISCILLA
WAKEFIELD.

Foolscap, 8vo. cloth lettered. Price 5s.

"A nice little work, in the shape of letters between two young ladies, who are induced to study natural history. The anecdotes are well selected, and told in a simple and unaffected manner, which greatly enhances their value. The object the authoress had in view is humane, and her book ought to be in the hands of every child from eight to twelve years of age."—*Bristol Mercury*.

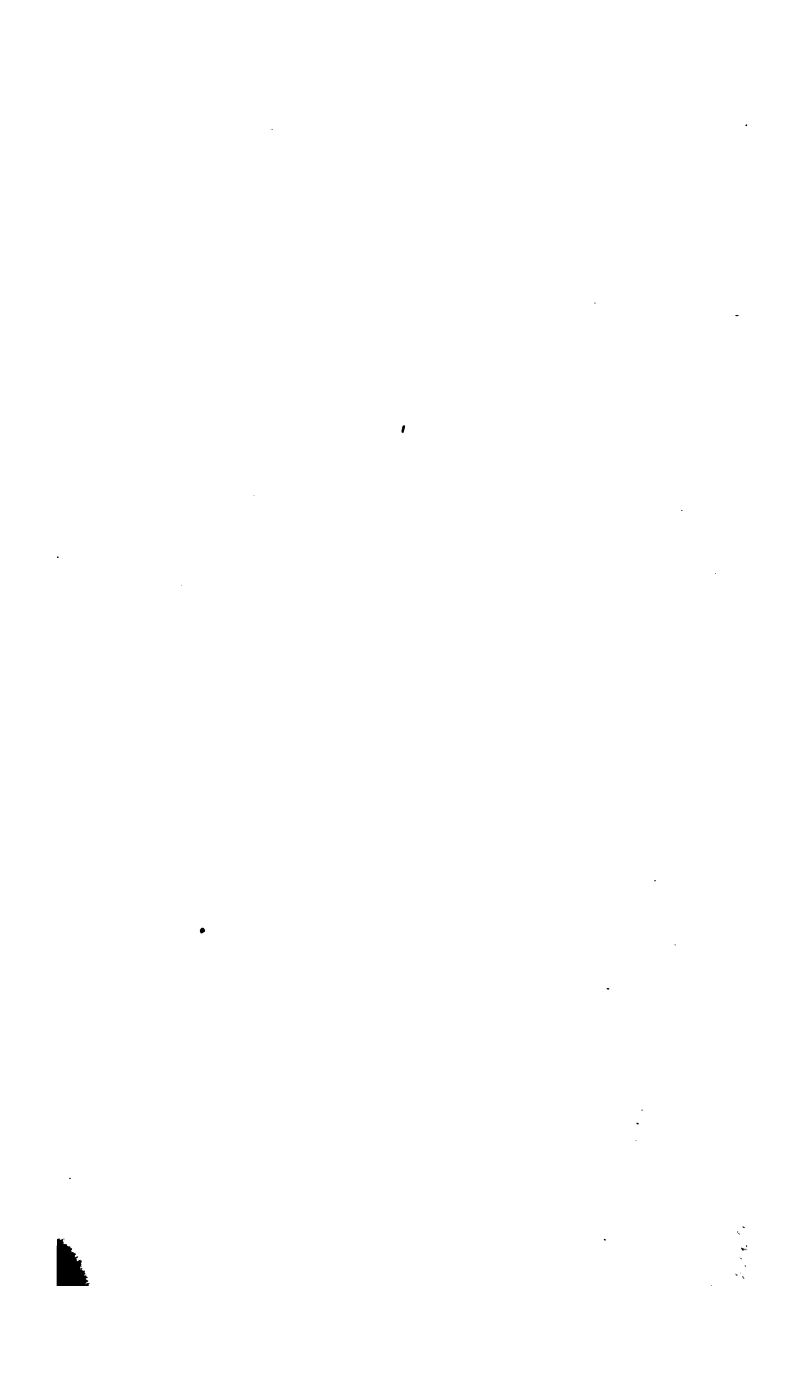
THE SQUIRRELS AND OTHER ANIMALS;

OR, ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE HABITS AND INSTINCTS OF MANY OF
THE SMALLER BRITISH QUADRUPEDS.

BY GEORGE WARING.

With Cuts. Square 16mo. Price 3s. 6d.

4/11/14
Gho



[illegible]

DEMCO 38-297

